

THE
HISTORY
OF
L O N D O N,
AND ITS
Endirons :

CONTAINING

AN ACCOUNT OF THE ORIGIN OF THE CITY;
ITS STATE UNDER THE ROMANS, SAXONS, DANES, AND NORMANS;
ITS RISE AND PROGRESS
To its Present State of Commercial Greatness:

INCLUDING

AN HISTORICAL RECORD OF EVERY IMPORTANT AND INTERESTING
PUBLIC EVENT, FROM THE LANDING OF JULIUS CÆSAR TO THE PRESENT PERIOD;
ALSO, A DESCRIPTION OF ITS ANTIQUITIES, PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND ESTABLISHMENTS; OF THE
REVOLUTIONS IN ITS GOVERNMENT; AND OF THE CALAMITIES TO WHICH
ITS INHABITANTS HAVE BEEN SUBJECT BY FIRE,
FAMINE, PESTILENCE, &c.

LIKEWISE

AN ACCOUNT
OF ALL THE TOWNS, VILLAGES, AND COUNTRY,
WITHIN TWENTY-FIVE MILES OF LONDON.

BY THE LATE REV. HENRY HUNTER, D.D.
AND OTHER GENTLEMEN.

Embellished with Maps, Plans, and Views.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

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1811.

HISTORY
OF
LONDON
AND ITS
CHURCHES

AN ACCOUNT OF THE ORIGIN OF THE CITY
ITS STATE UNDER TWO ROMAN, SAXON, DANISH, AND NORMAN;
ITS RISE AND PROGRESS
AS THE SEAT OF COMMERCIAL EXCHANGE
AS A CENTER OF EVERY IMPORTANT AND INTERESTING
EVENT FROM THE FOUNDATION OF ROMAN CIVILIZATION TO THE PRESENT PERIOD
A DESCRIPTION OF ITS ANTIQUITIES, MONUMENTS, AND ESTABLISHMENTS OF THE
PRESENT STATE OF ITS GOVERNMENT AND OF THE CHURCHES TO WHICH
THESE BELONG

AN ACCOUNT
OF ALL THE TOWNS, VILLAGES, AND COUNTRY

BY THE REV. HENRY HENRY, D.D.



PRINTED FOR JOHN JOHNSON, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD

1811

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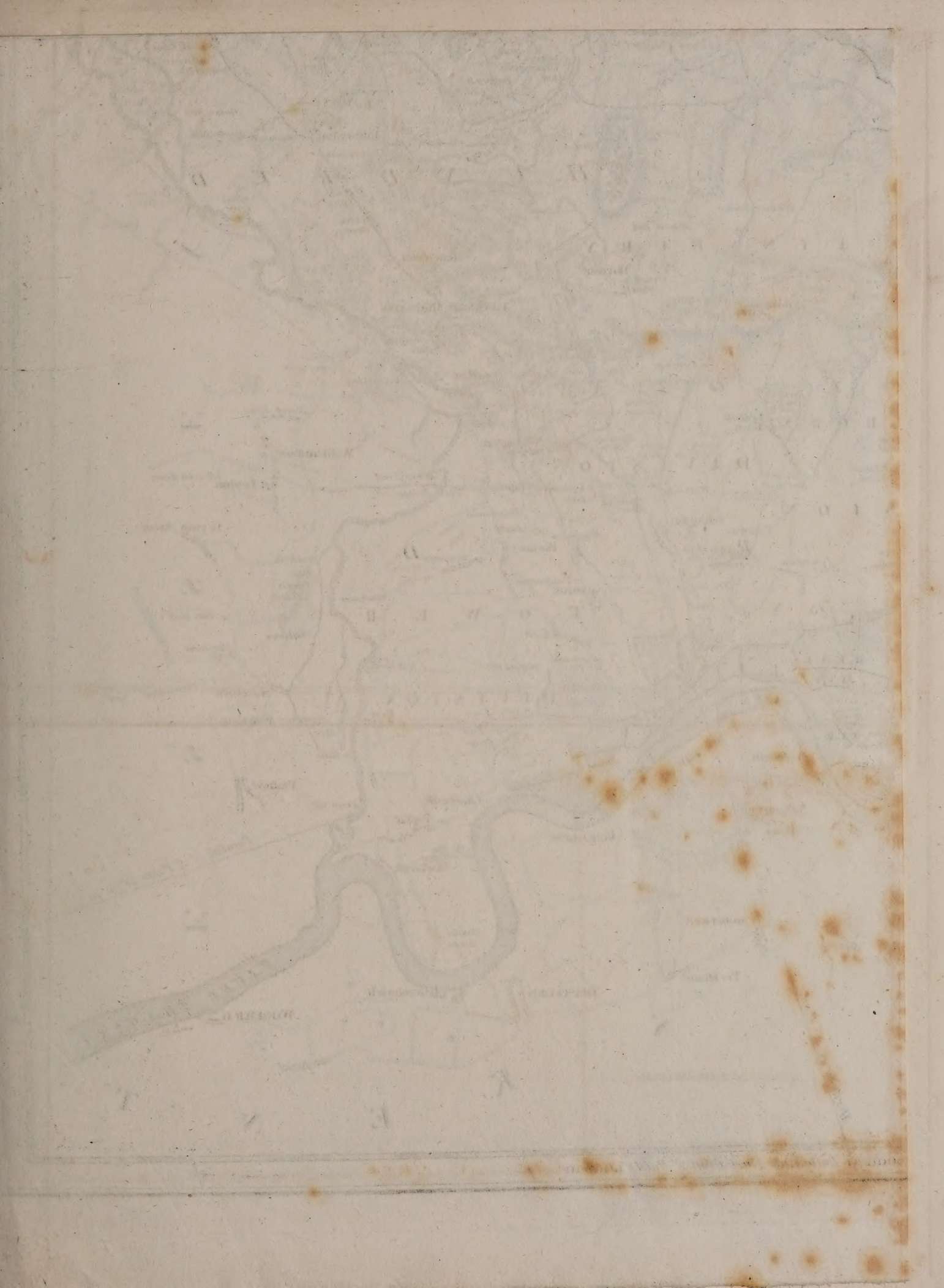
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A
MAP
OF
MIDDLESEX.



DESCRIPTION

OF THE

COUNTRY ROUND LONDON.

GENERAL ACCOUNT OF

M I D D L E S E X.

THE county of Middlesex, deriving its name from its relative situation to the three ancient surrounding kingdoms of the east, west, and south Saxons, is bounded on the north by Hertfordshire, on the east by Essex, and a small corner of Kent, on the west by Buckinghamshire, and on the south by Surrey. Its shape is on the whole quadrangular, though with great irregularities of the sides; the northern being distinguished by a kind of hook projecting into Hertfordshire; and the southern, following the windings of its boundary the Thames. The other two sides have also rivers for their boundaries, the Coln on the west, and the Lea on the east. In size it is one of the least of the English counties, measuring no more than about twenty-three miles in its greatest extent from east to west, and seventeen miles in the greatest extent from north to south. It is reckoned to contain 240 square miles, or 217,600 acres.

Besides the boundary rivers above mentioned, Middlesex is also watered by the *Brent*, a small stream crossing its central part from north to south, and flowing into the Thames at Brentford; by the *Crane*, a brook running through the south-western part, and joining the Thames at Isleworth; and by the *New River*, brought artificially in a very winding canal out of Hertfordshire, and terminating in the pipes and cisterns of London.

Soil and Face of Country.—The borders of the Thames, which compose the whole southern side of Middlesex, and which spread out in proportion to the size of the river itself, are a series of level meadows, composed of a rich loamy soil, varied in different parts by mixtures of sand, gravel, or clay. The banks of the Coln, too, which river is divided into several parallel channels, afford an extensive range of meadows of a moorish quality. Meadow lands, as in other districts, accompany the course of the other streams, and run through the intervals of the higher grounds. For the most part, the county rises as it proceeds northwards, and attains its highest elevation on the borders of Hertfordshire. At a small distance to the north of London, a chain of gentle eminences agreeably breaks the uniformity of the horizon, and affords some situations of great beauty. The range of land from the neighbourhood of Tottenham to Hampstead is not easily to be paralleled for the elegance of its varying swells and depressions, and the lively verdure of its surface, covered with a carpet of the finest grass, or cloathed in wood. Beyond these, a higher and more extensive ridge stretches in interrupted eminences from the forest-scenery of Enfield chace in the north-east, by Totteridge, Edgware, Stanmore, and Pinner, to the north-west, from which Harrow and some of the hills in its neighbourhood are a sort of detachments. None of these hills are high enough to partake of the sterility of mountains. Their soil is mostly stiff clay, with mixtures of gravel and loam. Enfield chace, of which a considerable part has of late years been cleared, is a crude watery soil, the staple of which is chiefly a strong clay-marl. Finchley common, an extensive tract of plain between these two ridges, abounds with gravel, but has likewise a great proportion of clayey soil. The south-western parts of the county are nearly level; their soil varying from clay and loam to gravel. The very extensive heath of Hounslow in this tract consists much of a lean and hungry gravel, equally unsightly to the eye, and unprofitable to the cultivator; yet there is a considerable mixture of land which, if inclosed, would be as capable of producing grain of all kinds as any of the neighbouring districts. On the whole, the county of Middlesex has its share of beauty and fertility, though the quantity of waste land it contains does not entitle it to that high praise for richness of soil which some old writers have lavished upon it.

Agriculture and Products.—A small district, containing within itself a metropolis of immense magnitude, must necessarily be principally devoted to the wants and conveniences of that metropolis, and take its general character from that connection.

The

The parts of Middlesex lying round London are therefore in a particular state of culture and occupancy, depending on their vicinity to so great a city; but some of the remoter parts appear to be little affected by the influence of the town, and are as merely rural as the most distant of the provinces. Proceeding from London as a centre, we shall take a summary view of the state of the county as to its products and cultivation.

Immediately contiguous to the town, the face of the land is deformed by the multitude of clay pits, whence are dug the brick-earth used in the kilns which smoke all round London, to the great annoyance of the neighbouring inhabitants, though probably more to the benefit than injury of their health. These clays are of various quality, serving for bricks used for different purposes. In general, however, the materials of which this vast metropolis is built are such as can ensure it no long duration, without perpetual repairs. The brick-earth is reckoned upon an average to run four feet in depth, and to yield one million of bricks per acre in each foot. The land is levelled after all the brick-earth is taken from it, and by the help of rubbish and manure is raised in its surface, though it still remains lower than the adjoining roads.

The old brick-grounds converted into pasture, together with a quantity of unbroken pasture land, form a green and open tract round London, especially to the north of it, which is almost solely in the possession of the cow-keepers, who supply the metropolis with milk. The number of cows for this purpose, many of them the largest and finest the kingdom affords, is computed at about 7200 in the county of Middlesex, besides 1300 in Surrey and Kent. These, besides grass, are fed upon brewer's grains, and turnips and hay. By the force of manure, the fields, though successively covered with the numerous herds, are preserved in almost perpetual verdure, and soon recruit themselves after being fed down. This employment of the land is at the same time highly profitable, and gives a pleasing rural character to the immediate vicinity of the town.

On the banks of the Thames, for many miles on both sides of London, the land is occupied by gardeners and nursery-men, who cultivate the immense quantity of vegetables, both culinary and ornamental, with which this metropolis is so excellently supplied. This is a kind of culture which, through alteration in modes of living, and the progress of luxury, has been for upwards of a century in a state of continual increase. The kitchen-gardener, who produces common vegetables

for the table, depends for his success chiefly upon the quantity of manure he employs, which is mostly new horse-dung from the stables. To this he adds great care in the choice of his seeds, and constant labour in digging. Thus he is enabled to cover his ground with a constant succession of crops, suited to each season, from the commencement of spring to the close of autumn. The nurseryman generally unites the culture of flowers, fruit trees, timber trees, and exotics. The taste for rare and elegant plants has so greatly prevailed of late years, that the rearing of them for sale is a very considerable object of commerce. The late Mr. James Gordon, of Mile End, is said to have been the first who pursued this to any extent, and the nursery-grounds in the occupation of his family are still among the principal, though many others have now acquired a great name and very extensive business. The reputation of the English gardeners for exotics is so high, that in time of peace a large exportation of these articles takes place to various parts of Europe, even to the more favoured climes of France, Spain, and Italy. From Bow, on the eastern limit of the south side of the county, to Hounslow and Isleworth westwards, the gardens and nurseries extend two or three miles from the river, intermixed with the pleasure grounds belonging to gentlemen's seats. About Chelsea, Hammersmith, and Chiswick, there is a considerable mixture of fields of corn, which takes its turn with other crops. Meadows, parks, and pleasure grounds succeed on the borders of the Thames from Twickenham to Hampton, Sunbury, and the extremity of the county. The islets and immediate banks of the river from Fulham to Staines are advantageously employed in the growth of willows of various species, for the use of the basket and corn-sieve makers, and the nursery-men. The planting of them is at first expensive, but they produce a great yearly profit, and improve as they advance in age.

The next circle of country round London is that chiefly devoted to the production of hay, which must ever be a very valuable article at the markets of the metropolis. The low meadows on the banks of the Lea, and the higher and varied parishes of Tottenham, Highgate, Hornsey, Hampstead, Hendon, Finchley, and Harrow, are mostly under this hay-farming system, to which is generally joined a proportion of pasturage and tillage. The districts near London, which are the lowest, and to which manure can readily be conveyed, generally afford two crops of hay in the year; the higher and more remote yield only one. In the parts of the county further

ther northwards, ray grafs and clover are cultivated ; but the hay for the London market is chiefly from natural graffes.

The country about Acton and Ealing, and by Hanwell to Uxbridge, has a mixed cultivation, partly hay and pasture, partly arable. Towards the south-western angle the arable prevails, and some of the parishes are noted for the excellence of their grain. The wheat of Heston, in particular, is in high reputation, as is the barley of Chelsea, Fulham, and Chiswick.

There is nothing remarkable in the breeds of cattle and other animals in Middlesex. The sorts bred and fed are derived from all parts of the kingdom. Flocks of sheep are only kept on Hounslow heath and the adjoining pastures. They are mostly of the western breeds. The rearing of house lambs is a considerable business in some parts of the county. The ewes for this purpose are always from Dorsetshire, on account of the earliness of their yeanning. The rams are home-bred. Much art and attention are required for the rearing of this forced and untimely progeny, which, however, from the demands of luxury, afford a large profit if successfully managed. Some young calves are in like manner reared for the London market, but in less numbers.

Upon a general computation, it is supposed that above half the land in Middlesex is in meadow and pasturage, about a fifth in tillage, and as much in nurseries, gardens, and pleasure grounds ; and that 20,000 acres are unprofitably occupied by wastes and commons.

State of Property, Farms, Rents, &c.—Middlesex is divided among a great number of proprietors, few of the nobility or great land-owners possessing much more in this county than the grounds immediately adjacent to their seats. The farms in general are small, or of a moderate size ; and the garden and nursery-grounds are occupied in still smaller shares. Rents, as might be supposed, vary more than in most parts of the kingdom. Some farming land does not let higher than 20s. per acre, while some rises to 4l. Garden ground walled in pays from 5l. to 10l. per acre ; but the rent in this case is more regulated by the length of wall and number of fruit trees, than the extent of ground. On the whole, the expences of rent and culture run so high to the tenant, that notwithstanding the high value of products, much industry is required to make a living profit.

Mineral Waters.—The neighbourhood of London, though destitute of mines of any kind, is remarkable for its mineral waters, none of them, indeed, at present

of

of great note, but still occasionally used for medicinal purposes. Of these there are in Middlesex, those of

Shadwell, saline and chalybeat;

Pancras and *St. Chad's*, impregnated with calcareous nitre, diuretic, and cathartic;

Bagnigge-wells, chalybeat and cathartic;

Islington, or *Sadlers-wells*, chalybeat;

Hampstead, chalybeat;

Acton, saline, purgative;

Kilbourn, saline, purgative.

No other objects of natural history that call for particular notice are afforded by this county. Mr. Curtis, an excellent botanist, has published many numbers of a splendid *Flora Londinensis*, but the plants it contains are by no means peculiar to the neighbourhood of the metropolis. Hampstead-heath is one of the best botanizing grounds near London, being furnished with many of the plants of retired and uncultivated situations.

Civil and Ecclesiastical Divisions.—Middlesex in the time of the Romans was one of the districts inhabited by the Trinobantes. Under the Saxon heptarchy it made part of the kingdom of Essex, or the East Saxons. It is divided into six hundreds, not inclusive of the liberties of London and Westminster. These are

The hundred of Offulston, south-east;

————— of Isleworth, south;

————— of Spelthorne, south-west;

————— of Edmonton, north-east;

————— of Goare, north;

————— of Elthorne, north-west.

Its market towns are Brentford, (where the county members are elected) Uxbridge, and Staines. Other places possessed of the privilege of holding a market have discontinued it.

It has two cities, London and Westminster. London only has a bishop, and a diocese; Westminster has a dean and chapter of its own. The archdeaconry of London comprehends all the parishes of the city; that of Middlesex comprehends all those of the county, which, exclusive of those in Westminster and the suburbs, are about fifty-four in number.

Middlesex sends eight members to Parliament, viz. two for the county, four for London, and two for Westminster.

Population and Opulence.—The metropolis bestows upon this small county a greater share of wealth and population than any others possess; nor are these advantages confined to the two cities which compose the capital, but diffuse themselves through all the vicinity. Several very rich and extensive parishes round the town are now joined to it by contiguity of buildings; and along some of the roads, for several miles, the houses form continued streets. Some of the nearer villages are so thronged with the villas of merchants and other persons in business, and with lodging houses for the accommodation of families, who for health and pleasure pass the summer months in the country, that they have acquired the size and consequence of towns, and, indeed, much surpass the market towns of the more distant parts of the county, which are insignificant places. There are several parts, however, out of the course of the main roads, and possessing no particular attractions, in which Middlesex is not to be distinguished from the agricultural provinces in the middle of the kingdom. Its trade and manufactures are almost solely confined to the immediate neighbourhood of the metropolis.

Middlesex (including London) pays eighty parts out of 513 of the land-tax of England.

It provides 1600 men to the national militia, exclusive of the military establishment of the city of London.

GENERAL ACCOUNT OF

SURREY.

THE county of Surrey is bounded by Middlesex on the north, by Kent on the east, by Suffex on the south, and by Hampshire and Berkshire on the west. Its shape would be a pretty regularly parallelogram, were it not for the great inequalities of its northern side, formed by the windings of its boundary, the Thames, and contracted to the west by the projection of Berkshire. In extent it is one of the middle-sized counties. From east to west it measures about thirty-nine miles; from north to south, about twenty-five; and its contents are computed at 481,947 statute acres.

Rivers.—The streams which water Surrey chiefly rise or have most of their course in it, and flow northwards to join the Thames. The *Thames* itself forms one of the finest features of the county, bestowing almost unrivalled beauty on the situations and prospects of its northern side, and equally serving the purposes of pleasure and utility.

The *Wey* coming out of Hampshire enters Surrey near Farnham, and joined by many streams from the south-western part of this county, passes Guildford, and empties itself into the Thames at Weybridge, not far from Chertsey. It is navigable from Godalmin.

The *Mole* rises on the Suffex border towards the east, and uniting many small streams in that neighbourhood, flows to Dorking, beyond which, at the foot of Box-hill, the greatest part of its water sinks into the ground, and is supposed to hold a subterranean course of near two miles. The accurate fact seems to be, that a tract of soft ground, called the Swallows, in very dry seasons absorbs the waste water in the caverns of its banks, but not so as to prevent a constant, though diminished, stream from flowing above ground. It afterwards passes Leatherhead, and flowing directly through the middle of the county, mixes with the Thames at Molesey, above Kingston.

Of the other little streams which successively join the Thames as it proceeds eastward, none is so well known as the *Wandle*, which rising near Croydon, takes its short course by Mitcham and Tooting to Wandsworth, near which it terminates in
the



the great river. It is remarkable from the number of calico-printing works, and other manufactories established on its banks.

Face of Country and Soil.—The beauty of the charming meadows, parks, and ornamental grounds of every kind bordering the Thames in this county, is soon contrasted by a chain of heaths, commons, and open wastes, stretching inwards, and giving a bleak and barren appearance to a large share of it. Directly south of London, some beautiful eminences appear, clothed with wood. The county in general rises towards the centre, where are large tracts of open downs, with a chalky or gravelly soil. These stretch away westward, on which side the land degenerates to an entire sandy sterile heath, broken, indeed, with a few fertile and pleasant spots. Beneath the hills to the south and east lies a rough woody tract called Holmsdale, terminating in the Weald of Kent, which it resembles. The southern skirt of the county is a well-watered tract, finely varied with wood, arable, and pasture. Surrey, on the whole, is a dry country, its under-soil being chiefly composed of chalk and gravel; whence it is healthy, and (where improved by culture) pleasant to reside in. Its great proportion of waste land is, however, a deformity which will scarcely allow of its ranking among the finer of the English counties.

Agriculture and Products.—The land in the immediate vicinity of the metropolis is devoted, as on the northern side of the town, to the keeping of cows for milk. A good deal of hay is made from the meadows on the banks of the Thames; and the crops principally grown in the surrounding circle are rye, tares, clover, and turnips, which are chiefly used as green fodder. Further inland, all the species of corn are produced, according to the soil, as well as pease, beans, lucern, and saint-foin, which last has lately been found to answer very well on the downs. Potatoes, carrots, and parsnips, for the London market, are grown in quantities in some of the deep sandy districts. Much land, as on the other side of the water, is devoted to the purposes of the nurseryman and gardener. Some of the parishes adjacent to the Thames, as Battersea, Wandsworth, Mortlake, and Putney, are particularly noted for their horticultural products. Considerable tracts in some parts are overgrown with dwarf trees and brush wood, but their value is inconsiderable. The culture of hops is followed about Farnham, in the south-western angle of the county. On the whole, Surry is more of an arable than a pasturage country. The manures made use of, besides the various articles procured from London, are the farm-yard dung mixed with soil from the bottom of ditches, &c.

and lime, which is laid in large quantities on the strong clays and loams of the south-eastern parts.

With respect to animals, Surrey is not remarkable for any particular breeds. The milch cows are chiefly of the Yorkshire and Durham kinds. Oxen are fattened in considerable numbers by some of the great distillers near town, being profitably fed on the grains, meal-dust, and wash, with a proportion of other fodder. These are chiefly of the Welch and Herefordshire breeds. Many sucking calves are reared about Esher and in other parts. The sheep kept are principally the Wiltshire, Dorsetshire, and South-down. Some of the small native breeds are much valued for their flesh. The Banstead-down mutton, in particular, has been long celebrated, and even poets have not disdained to record its praises. House lambs are reared in great numbers by some of the Surrey farmers not far from London, and afford, when skillfully managed, a very profitable article for the market. The fattening of hogs on the refuse of the distilleries and starch-manufactories is another considerable branch of economy. Some of these works on the Surrey side of the Thames send as many as three or four thousand hogs to market annually.

State of Property, Occupation of Lands, &c.—The land in Surrey is in general much divided as to property; and the farms are rather small than large. The proportion of common-field land enclosed is greater than in many counties; and the heaths and wastes occupy a very large space. It is computed that the commons and wastes together amount to 96,000 acres; the latter, which are scarcely of any value, composing near seven-eighths of this number. Great room for improvement by enclosure, planting, &c. is therefore afforded by this county, which it is to be hoped the spirited attention now paid to this object, animated by the value of all products so near to the metropolis, will shortly put in activity.

Natural Productions.—A mineral water once in great esteem is found at *Epsom*, the salts of which have given one of the names by which the sal catharticus, or bitter purging salt, compounded of magnesia and the muriatic acid, is popularly known. But the cheapness of this salt as an artificial product has much diminished the value of the natural water. At *Dulwich* a purging water has also been discovered, of nearly the same quality as that of the neighbouring Sydenham-wells. Another of similar virtues at *Streatham* is still much resorted to. *Bermondsey* has a chalybeate spa.

The

The chalk pits in some parts of this county afford a variety of extraneous fossils.

Manufactures, Trade, &c.—Exclusive of the trade carried on by the borough of Southwark, which is, in fact, a part of that of London, the commercial objects in that part of Surrey which lies within the vicinity of the metropolis are numerous and important. Most of the great distilleries are situated on the Surrey side of the river, as well as sweet-wine, vinegar, and starch works. Calico-printing, bleaching, dying, paper-making, and various other branches which require water for machinery or other purposes, are carried on to great extent along the course of the Wandle and other streams. These branches of employment have accumulated a large population in those parts; which, however, is not shared by the remoter districts, where manufactures are little known, and agriculture is the business chiefly followed.

Civil and Ecclesiastical Division.—The inhabitants of Surrey in the time of the Romans ranked among the *Regni*. In the heptarchy this county composed a part of the kingdom of *Suffex*. It is at present divided into thirteen hundreds, containing 140 parishes, and eleven market towns. The county town is Guilford; and for judicial matters it is in the Home circuit.

Surrey is in the diocese of Winchester, of which it composes one archdeaconry, called by the name of the county, and subdivided into the deanries of Ewell, Southwark, and Stoke.

Surrey sends to Parliament fourteen members, viz. two for the county, and two each for Guilford, Southwark, Haslemere, Ryegate, Bletchingly, and Gatton. It pays eighteen parts out of 513 of the land-tax, and provides 800 men for the national militia.

GENERAL ACCOUNT OF

K E N T.

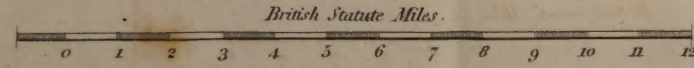
THE county of Kent, forming the south-eastern angle of this island, is bounded on the north by the German ocean, and the river Thames, which separates it from Essex, and from a corner of Middlesex; on the west, by Surrey; on the south, by Sussex; and on the east, by the Downs and the Straits of Dover. Its figure is irregularly quadrilateral, the shortest side being towards Surrey, and the longest, that stretching along the Thames and its mouth. This last, measuring from Deptford to the North Foreland, is about sixty-three miles in length. The greatest breadth of the county is its eastern side, which in a direct line from the North Foreland to Dungeness-point measures nearly forty miles. But the south-western and south-eastern angles approaching each other much more than the north-western and north-eastern, the county is considerably narrowed on its southern side. Its contents, according to the most accurate computation, are about 1400 square miles, or 900,000 statute acres.

Face of Country and Soil.—Two chains of hills run across Kent from west to east, called the Upper and Lower, or the Chalk and Gravel. The whole northern side of the county consists of chalk intermixed with flints, with the exception of a line of marshes or meadows on the banks of the Thames, Medway, and other rivers, and of some deep rich lands stretching from Milton through Feversham to Sandwich. The isle of Shepey, also, though rising high from the sea and rivers, consists chiefly of clayey land. The chalky tract spreads as it proceeds eastwards, and at last stretches from the North Foreland to Folkestone, forming most part of the way a white wall of cliffs in front of the coast. On the southern edge of the chalk country runs a narrow shelf of high ground, consisting chiefly of ragstone and ironstone, but in the eminences to the west, clay and gravel prevail. This range stretches across the centre of the county from the borders of Surrey quite to the sea near Folkestone and Hithe. Below it lies the Weald, a nearly level tract, occupying the remainder of the county to the borders of Sussex. It is terminated easterly by Romney-marsh, an extensive tract of rich marsh land, stretching along the coast from Hithe to Rye-haven, and spreading some miles

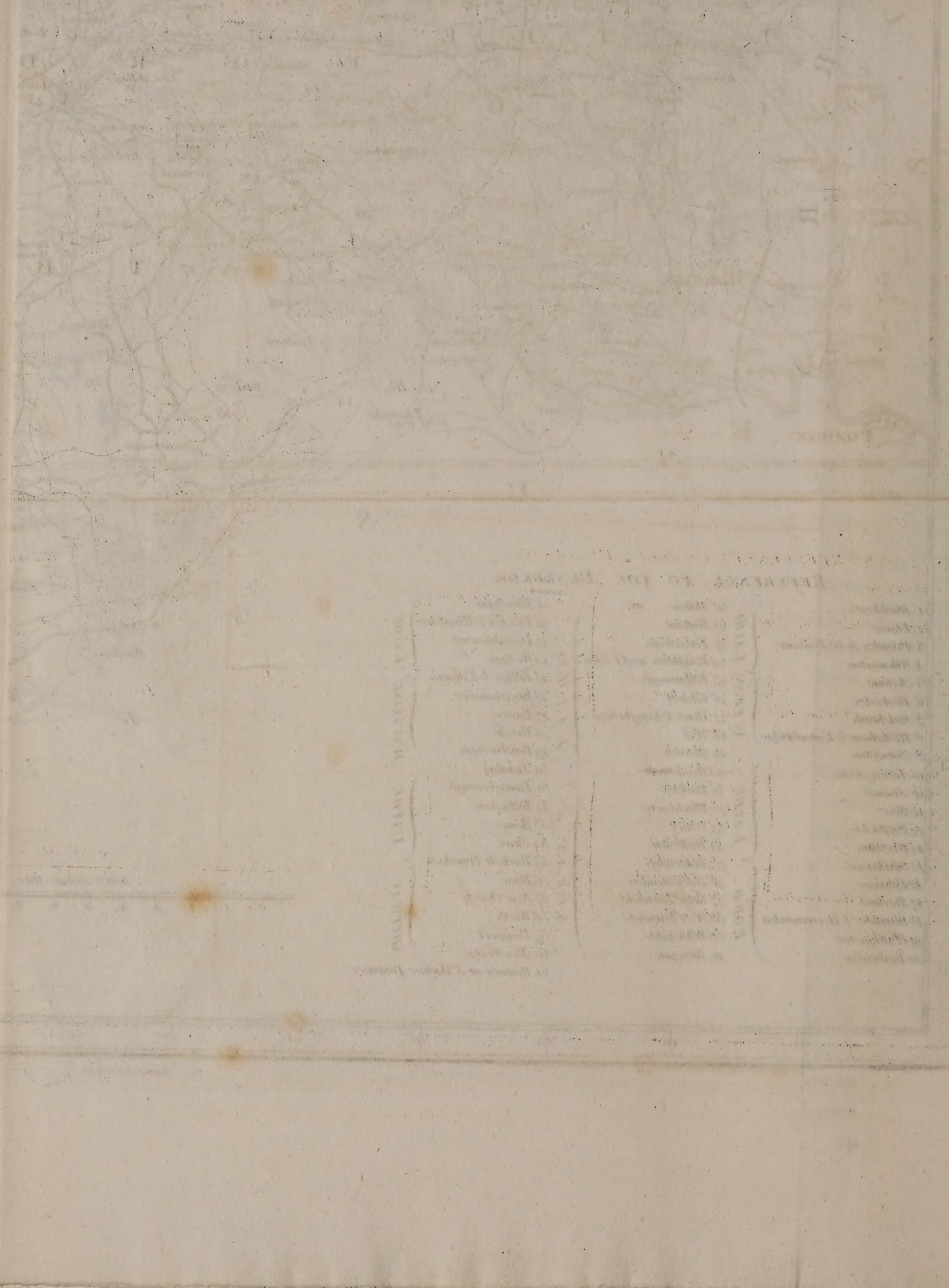


REFERENCE TO THE HUNDREDS.

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|-----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Blackheath | 21. Milton | 41. Ringham |
| 2. Leas | 22. Tenham | 42. Preston & Wingham |
| 3. Bromley & Deakenham | 23. Faversham | 43. Downhamford |
| 4. Wainington | 24. Boughton under Blen | 44. Wrotham |
| 5. Astone | 25. Felborough | 45. Bridge & Petham |
| 6. Rookesley | 26. Gilling | 46. Ringhamford |
| 7. Godheath | 27. Chart & Longbridge | 47. Ewsey |
| 8. Westerham & Eatonbridge | 28. Wye | 48. Cornilo |
| 9. Somerden | 29. Marden | 49. Bensborough |
| 10. Toltrington | 30. Granbrook | 50. Stowting |
| 11. Shamel | 31. Barkley | 51. Lodingborough |
| 12. Hoo | 32. Blackborne | 52. Folkstone |
| 13. Larkfield | 33. Oxney | 53. Heane |
| 14. Wrotham | 34. Tenterden | 54. Street |
| 15. Maidstone | 35. Robenden | 55. Birchholt Franchise |
| 16. Eythorne | 36. Selbritten | 56. Ham |
| 17. Theyford | 37. Great Barnfield | 57. New Church |
| 18. Brenchley & Horremonden | 38. West Barnfield | 58. Worth |
| 19. Watlington | 39. Whitstable | 59. Langport |
| 20. Timbridge | 40. Blengate | 60. Moesbridge |
| | | 61. Romney or St. Martins Pointney |



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up the country. The soil of the Weald is principally clay, but with an intermixture of sand and gravel. That of Romney-marsh is soft loam and clay, mixed with sea-sand; and indeed appears to be a subsidence from the sea. Though the above are the principal divisions of soil, yet there are great varieties of it in every district, nay almost in every farm, requiring much judgment in the different management of it. A great part of the county is stubborn and difficult to the cultivator, and its fertility is the consequence only of much labour and skill.

RIVERS.—Kent has the same claim to the *Thames* that so many other counties have, to which it serves in part of its course as a boundary. This noble river waters all the northern side of it, furnishing it with a border of rich marshes, and serving for the conveyance of the products of the neighbourhood to the metropolis and other places.

Medway.—The principal river properly belonging to Kent is the Medway, which rising from different heads in the borders of Surrey and Suffex, flows in a north-eastern direction to Maidstone, being first joined by the *Beult*, a considerable stream from the Weald, and then runs straight north to Rochester, at which city it again takes an eastern course, till it empties itself into the mouth of the Thames at the Nore, between the isles of Shepey and Grain. A channel from it called the Swale completes the separation of the isle of Shepey from the main land. The Medway admits large men of war as far as Chatham, where its channel suddenly contracts. It is navigable, however, for large barges to Maidstone, and for smaller ones to Tunbridge.

The *Darent*, a rivulet springing near Sevenoaks, flows northwards to Dartford, below which it mixes with the Thames in Long Reach, being first joined by the *Cray*.

The *Stour* rises in the stony ridge near Ashford, whence it runs to Canterbury, and then bending round to Sandwich, discharges itself into the sea at Hope-bay, a little below that town. The principal outlet of this river was formerly at the Rutupine port, the present Reculver; but this is now so far obliterated, as only to leave a small sewer from the Stour to the sea, serving to justify the name of an island given to Thanet, the north-eastern extremity of the county.

The *Rother*, coming from Suffex, forms the limit for some space between that county and Kent, and at its entrance into the sea spreads into Rye-haven. It had formerly another outlet, at Romney, the dry channel of which is still visible.

CLIMATE.

CLIMATE.—Kent, like the other sea-coast counties on the eastern side of England, is subject to cold ungenial blasts from the north-east, which frequently injure the vegetation in spring, and affect the health of the inhabitants. The low marshy grounds bordering the Thames are also by their situation particularly unhealthy, and the garrison of Sheerness is supposed to suffer more from sickness than any other in the kingdom. Romney-marsh, too, from its unwholesomeness, is deserted by its wealthy proprietors, who commit the care of its pasturage to hired overseers. Nevertheless, the higher and more internal parts of the county enjoy, for the most part, a pure and wholesome air; and many spots are distinguished for pleasantness and salubrity. The products of agriculture are earliest on the northern side of the county, which is chiefly owing to the greater warmth of the soil. Those parts that lie under the stony ridge of hills, though somewhat warmer in climate, ripen their products later, on account of the moist and cold quality of the land. The hills themselves are, of course, still later.

Agriculture and Products.—The county of Kent has long been celebrated for a very intelligent and spirited system of agriculture, which has given it a greater variety of products than most of the provinces of the kingdom. It is, upon the whole, more of an arable than a pasturage country, and annually sends out a great quantity of grain for the supply of London and other places. One of the more celebrated districts for the growth of corn is the isle of Thanet, most part of which is naturally a light and poor soil, but so improved by excellent farming as to yield large crops of barley and wheat. The manure principally used in this and the other sea-coast parts is sea-weed, of which vast quantities are often thrown on shore after a storm. Much of the chalky soils in the east of Kent are downs and sheep walks, which are occasionally broken up and converted to arable. The isle of Shepey, and the stiff clays of the Weald, produce abundance of beans in rotation with wheat and barley. Turnips and clover are also much cultivated in the west of Kent and the Weald. The chief manure for the stiff lands is lime, made of chalk, and often brought from a considerable distance. Some of the richest lands in the north and east are profitably employed in the growth of various feeds for the London market, such as canary, radish, spinach, and kidney beans. Potatoes also come more and more into culture, and large quantities of them have been employed in the feeding of cattle. Madder has been much cultivated near Feverham, but on account of the fall in price of the foreign madder, it has

ceased to be a valuable article, and its culture is given up. Flax is grown in some parts, of a quality like that imported from Holland, but somewhat inferior. Woad for the dyer's use is a good deal cultivated in the western parts of the county on poor lands. On the banks of the Thames about Deptford, Greenwich, and Gravesend, garden vegetables are much cultivated for the London market, and the supply of shipping. The Gravesend asparagus is reckoned superior to any other.

The London brewery is almost wholly supplied with its hops from Kent, of which the principal plantations are in the vicinity of Canterbury, and of Maidstone. The former are of the finest quality, and are preferred for strength to any others in England. The same stoney lands about Maidstone which form the hop grounds likewise yield great quantities of apples, cherries, and filberts; and they are commonly cultivated all together. The fruit chiefly goes to the London market, though cyder is also made from the apples when plentiful.

The whole of the Weald was formerly a forest, and still considerable tracts of wood-land remain. There is also a range of wood-lands interspersed through the middle of the county parallel to the road from Rochester to Dover. The product of these lands is a considerable object. The principal article is hop-poles for the use of the plantations in the county. These are made from various species of wood, of which the most valuable are chestnut, ash, willow, maple, and oak. Much cord-wood, brush-wood, bavins, wheel and plough timber, hurdles, stakes, &c. are produced from these woods, the regular management of which is a matter of serious attention. Large navy timber is afforded by some old woods on the western side of the county.

With respect to live stock, Kent, not being either a dairy or a grazing county, possesses no particular breed of horned cattle. Those bought for fattening in the marshes of East Kent are chiefly the Welch breed; and most of the cows for dairies are selected from these, without any regard to shape or form, but only as being good milkers. In West Kent the cows are mostly home bred. In the Weald they are of the Suffex breed. No oxen for the plough are used in the eastern parts, but in the Weald there are many ox teams.

As to sheep, Kent has been long famous for a fine breed, called the Romney-marsh breed, which are remarkable for arriving at an extraordinary degree of fatness at an early age, and for producing a large fleece of long fine wool. These

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are long in the carcase and legs, with large bones. They are hornless, and have white legs and faces. Romney-marsh is almost entirely devoted to the breeding and fattening of sheep of this kind, the cattle fed there being only for the purpose of eating off the longer and coarser grafs. The Romney breed are the sort chiefly kept by the Kentish farmers, and particularly in the isle of Shepey, which is supposed to have taken its name from this animal. In the upland farms, however, many of the Wiltshire, Dorsetshire, and South-down sheep are kept. The latter are the favourite breed on the Suffex border, in West Kent.

Many fine teams of horses are kept by the farmers in different parts of Kent. These in the isle of Thanet have been improved by the importation of Flanders mares. The breed is black, of large size and boney. In the isle of Shepey there is a breed of old standing, less than in other parts of the county. The West Kent farmers chiefly buy colts from dealers, brought from the midland parts of England.

Hogs are reared in large numbers in Kent, pork being the chief food of the husbandmen and farmers servants. In East Kent many are fed for the butcher, and fold early—they are both of the large kinds, and of the smaller, mixed with the Chinese breed. In the Weald, many hogs are reared in the woods, and fed on acorns in the autumn.

Kent has but few hay meadows in proportion to other counties, and these in general of an inferior kind. The best meadow land is in the Weald, where great quantities of good hay are produced, sufficient for the fattening some of the finest oxen in the kingdom. The hay of the other parts is chiefly made from marsh land, situated along the borders of rivers, and the sea shore. Of this kind of land it is reckoned that

	Acres.
Romney-marsh contains	44,000
Borders of the Stour	27,000
—— of the Medway, Thames, and the Swale, &c.	11,500
	82,500

all devoted to the fattening of cattle and sheep, or the breeding of the latter.

The waste commons of Kent are computed not to exceed 20,000 acres.

Division

Division of Property.—There is no county in England in which property is more divided than in Kent, a natural consequence of the tenure of gavel kind which is prevalent throughout the county, and one of the properties of which is the equal division of lands among all the sons of a family. Hence the yeomanry of Kent have long been famous for their numbers and comparative opulence, and it is said that they are still on the increase. The Kentish freeholds are supposed to be about nine thousand; an extraordinary number considering the large possessions of the two episcopal dioceses of Canterbury and Rochester, and of other bodies corporate, within the county. There are, moreover, between twenty and thirty seats of noblemen in Kent, as well as many mansions of the inferior gentry, several of whom possess large estates.

Size of Farms and Rents.—The farms are generally the largest in the poorest parts of the county. In these they run up from 300 to 600 acres, and more. In the richer parts there are many from ten to fourteen acres, and few exceed 200. The rents vary according to soil from 5s. to 30s. per acre. At an average they may be taken at 15s.

Natural Products.—The abundance of cover in this county renders game very plentiful. Its pheasants, in particular, are noted for their size and flavour. Fish abounds in its rivers and other waters. The lobsters taken off the isle of Thanet are reckoned the finest in England. Oysters form a considerable article of exportation, there being a particular corporation at Rochester for the management of those which are bred in the creeks of the Medway. Milton near Faversham has a species of oysters of peculiar excellence.

As to *minerals*, the chalk dug from the pits at Greenhithe, Northfleet, and near Rochester, affords employment for numbers in burning it to lime, or exporting it in a raw state. The flints found in strata among it have of late years met with a great demand from the Staffordshire potteries. A kind of lime-stone which bears so fine a polish as to have the name of Betherfden-marble is dug in the Weald. Near Maidstone are large quarries of a hard stone for building and other purposes, called the Kentish rag-stone. Iron mines have formerly been wrought in the Weald near Suffex; but this is now discontinued. From the cliffs on the north side of the isle of Shepey considerable quantities of pyrites are continually falling on the shore, which are collected by the poor, and exported for the use of the copperas works.

Tunbridge-wells have long been noted for a mineral water of high reputation; and though less fashionable than formerly, they are still frequented by numerous invalids. The water is a chalybeat, in which the iron is rendered soluble by the medium of carbonic acid gas. Other strong chalybeat springs have been met with in different places, as at Bromley and Feversham, and in Penhurst-park. Sydenham-common possesses some wells of a purgative water in considerable esteem. These springs have also been called Lewisham or Dulwich-wells; and other waters of a like quality have been found in the neighbourhood.

Civil and Ecclesiastical Division.—Kent is primarily divided into large districts called *Laths*, of which there are five: viz.

Lath of Sutton at Hone,	Lath of Shipway,
—— of Aylesford,	—— of St. Augustine.
—— of Scray,	

Each of these is subdivided into bailiwicks, hundreds, and liberties, of which subdivisions the whole county contains fourteen bailiwicks, sixty-three hundreds, and thirteen franchises or liberties. Kent, moreover, is divided into two moieties, East and West Kent; the first of which is reckoned to contain the laths of Sutton at Hone, Aylesford, and the southern division of that of Scray;—the second, the northern division of the lath of Scray, and those of Shipway and St. Augustine. This makes nearly an equal partition of the county. The distribution of justice follows this partition, the courts of session for the districts in each being held four times a year; those for the eastern at Canterbury, for the western at Maidstone.

The ecclesiastical division is, first, into the two dioceses of Canterbury and Rochester. Each of these is subdivided into deanries and parishes, of which

Canterbury diocese contains	11 deanries,	281 parishes.
Rochester,	- - - 4	132
In all,	- - - 15	413

Besides the cities of Canterbury and Rochester, there are reckoned thirty market towns in this county, though in some of these the market is discontinued. The county town is Maidstone, where the assizes are held, and the knights of the shire elected. Kent sends eighteen members to Parliament; viz. two for the county, and two each for Canterbury, Rochester, Maidstone, Queenborough, Dover, Sandwich, Romney, and Hithe. The four last are reckoned among the cinque ports.

ports. It provides 960 men to the national militia, and pays twenty-two parts out of 513 of the land tax.

Trade, Manufactures, and Population.—The chief trade of Kent consists in the export of its agricultural productions above mentioned; but much employment is afforded by means of its connection with the river Thames and the navy. The dock yards and arsenals at Deptford, Woolwich, Chatham, and Sheerness keep a great number of men at work in all the branches of ship building, and the preparation of naval and military stores. The gunpowder works near Feversham are also considerable. Near London some branches of manufacture are carried on connected with the trade of the metropolis. Canterbury has long had a share in the silk-weaving business. At Maidstone, linen thread is made, and there are large paper mills and other works on the river: British spirits are also distilled in great quantities. Tunbridge has an elegant manufacture of turnery ware. On the whole, however, Kent is not to be reckoned among the more commercial provinces of the kingdom. Its principal character is agricultural. It has long supported a considerable population, which the improved culture of its land, and the increasing business of its naval towns, has certainly not suffered to diminish.

GENERAL ACCOUNT OF

E S S E X.

THE county of Essex is bounded on the north by Suffolk, on the east by the German ocean, on the west by Hertfordshire and Middlesex, and on the south by the Thames, flowing between it and Kent. It is of an irregular quadrangular shape, each side being much indented. The sea coast, particularly, is rendered very irregular by creeks and inlets, and declines considerably inwards from north to south, forming a sort of funnel to the mouth of the Thames. The greatest extent of Essex from east to west is about sixty miles; from north to south, about fifty. Its contents are reckoned at 1,240,000 acres.

Rivers.—Of these, some are boundary rivers, belonging equally to other counties. The *Thames* has all the lower part of its course between this county and Kent, flowing in a wide channel, at length expanding into an arm of the sea, and by its high tides requiring strong embankments to protect the low grounds by which it is bordered.

The *Stour*, which forms the greatest part of the Suffolk border, rises near Haverhill, and flowing by the towns of Clare, Sudbury, and Neyland, in Suffolk, and Dedham and Manningtree in Essex, spreads from the latter town into an arm of the sea, which joins the German ocean at Harwich. It is made navigable up to Sudbury.

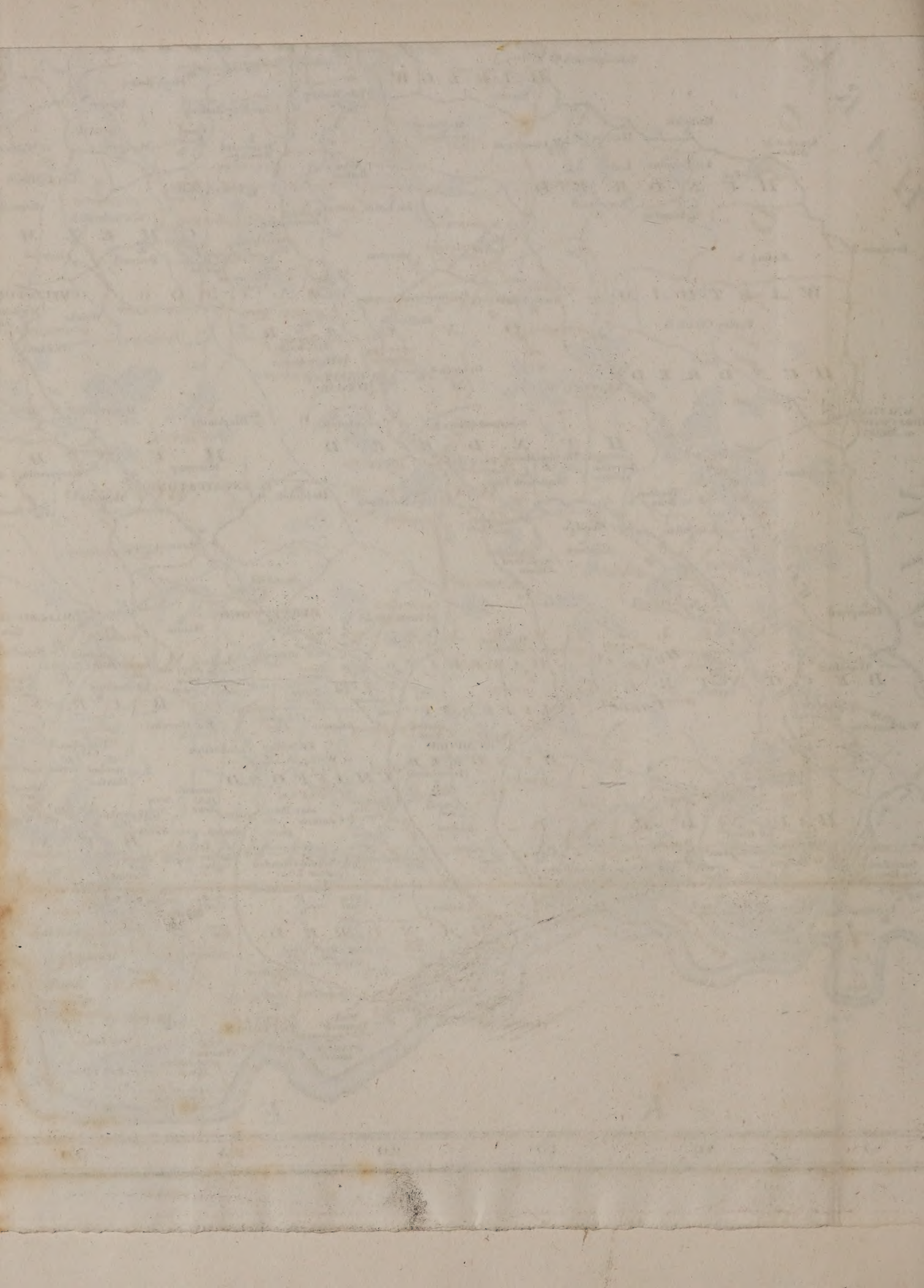
The *Stort*, a small stream rising near Clavering, makes part of the western boundary, from Harley End in Farnham to Roydon, where it mixes with the Lea.

The *Lea* coming from Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire, after receiving the Stort, forms the rest of the south-western boundary to its junction with the Thames a little below Stratford.

Nearly parallel to the Lea runs the *Rodan*, which rising near Little Easton flows southward by Cheping-Ongar, Great Ilford, and Barking, below which last town it discharges itself into the Thames.

The





The *Crouch* rises not far from Billericay, and running directly east, divides the hundreds of Rochford and Dengey, and falls into the sea between Foulness-island and Burnham marshes.

The *Chelmer*, springing from the neighbourhood of Thaxted, runs south-eastward by Dunmow through the centre of the county to Chelmsford, where, receiving a stream called the *Cam*, it turns eastward, and meets the *Pant* a little above Maldon.

The *Pant*, or *Blackwater* has its sources to the north and west of Thaxted, whence flowing south-eastwards to Braintree and Coggeshall, it turns south by Witham, and after its junction with the Chelmer, passes Maldon, and empties itself by a broad estuary into the sea.

The *Coln* rises in the parish of Redgwell, and taking a south-eastern course, passes Castle Hedingham and Halsted to Colchester, (to which town it gives name), whence it flows to the sea by the eastern side of Mersey island, the western of which is washed by the mouth of the *Pant*. These two rivers have therefore the same wide inlet from the ocean.

Face of Country and Soil.—Essex composes part of that tract on the eastern side of England, which forms by much the largest space of level ground in the whole island, not one lofty eminence or rocky ridge being met with throughout several contiguous counties. The surface of Essex, however, is not a dead flat, but is agreeably diversified with gentle hills and dales, through the latter of which rills of water usually flow. The highest of these hills are at Danbury near Chelmsford; and the next in height is the range from Langdon to Burntwood and South Weald. In general, however, the county rises towards the north-west, in which quarter most of the rivers spring. The most level tracts are those of the southern and eastern hundreds. The sea coast is broken into a series of islets and peninsulas, deeply cut in by arms of the sea, and exhibiting evident tokens of the violence of that element. Extensive salt marshes border a great part of the coast, protected by embankments, which are frequently giving way to the fury of the wind and tides. The banks of the Thames are likewise generally low and marshy; and a tract of moist meadows accompanies the course of the Lea and other rivers. A considerable part of the south-western angle is over-run by Epping-forest and its several branches, much of which is still in a wild uncultivated state, representing the original appearance of a great portion of this county.

The

The soil of so extensive a tract as Essex must be supposed to be extremely various. It has, indeed, all the diversities from the stiffest clay to the tenderest loam, and even light gravel. Above half the county may be reckoned a temperate mixed soil. A long range of heavier mixed soil runs from Cheping-Ongar northwards to the borders of Suffolk, and another occupies the tract between the Blackwater and Crouch, and comes round to the Thames at Canvey-island. The greatest tract of light gravelly soil lies north and south of Colchester, stretching to Harwich. Chalk prevails on some parts of the Thames border. On the whole, few counties in England are more favourable to the different products of agriculture.

Climate.—Essex proverbially lies under the imputation of an unwholesome climate; yet the upland parts of it, which constitute by much the greater share, seem no more to deserve this character than similar situations in other counties. The sea coast, and especially the south-eastern parts commonly called the *hundreds of Essex*, from their low and marshy situation, and exposure to the east winds and sea fogs, have given just grounds to the charge of being peculiarly obnoxious to intermittent and other fevers, and their consequences; and though much has been done by clearing, draining, and cultivating, to correct the badness of the air, they are still by no means eligible places for health or pleasure. The water is perhaps more incurably bad than the air; and in dry seasons it is absolutely deficient, so as to occasion much inconvenience in the pasturage of cattle.

Agriculture and Products.—In the part of Essex near London, especially among the meadows and marshes of the Thames and Lea, much hay is made for the markets of the metropolis. Further onward, about Epping and Ongar, and on the course of the Roding, the land is chiefly devoted to dairy, the great supply to London of the finest fresh butter being from this quarter. Much pork is here fed from the refuse of the dairies, and numbers of calves are suckled for the London market. Near Ilford, potatoes are cultivated very largely for the supply of London. The general agriculture of the county, however, is turned to the production of grain and other objects of tillage, every species of which is grown in great perfection and abundance by the spirited and intelligent farmers with whom Essex abounds. The return for the seed sown is for the most part greater in this county than in most others; and it deservedly ranks among the richest of the farming counties. The stiff soils in the sea coast hundreds, and in all the other parts
accessible

accessible by water, derive great benefit from manuring with chalk, which is brought at a large expence from the opposite coast of Kent. In the more inland districts such manures are used as can be procured on the spot, as marle, clay, town and farm-yard muck, &c. Fallowing is much in use in the north-western parts, where large quantities of excellent barley are grown, and malted on the spot for the London brewery. Wheat and beans are the chief products of the stronger lands in the south-east. Hops are cultivated in the neighbourhood of Chelmsford, and also on the upper part of the river Coln, about Hedingham. Turnips and carrots are common on the lighter lands. Coriander seed, often along with carraway and teazle, is a singular article of cultivation in some districts. Much rape, mustard, cole seed, and a variety of garden products, are grown in different parts; in short, there is scarcely any object of a spirited agriculture in any part of the kingdom which is not to be found in Essex. Its improvements have been greatly promoted by its inclosures, which for a long period have been very general throughout the county. The woodlands of Essex are extensive, but not much timber of value is produced from them.

With respect to the stock of cattle and sheep kept in Essex, they are an intermixture of breeds from various parts. The cows preferred for the dairy are chiefly the Derbyshire, Leicestershire, and Holderness kinds. A Devonshire breed has lately been introduced with success, both for the dairy and for suckling. For the latter purpose Welch cows are preferred to those which give richer milk. The cattle fed on the marshes near the sea are Scots, Welch, and some short-horned Yorkshire, with a few Irish steers. There are few breeding flocks of sheep in Essex. Those principally kept are the Norfolks, South-downs, and Wilts, with some Dorsets for early lambs. Agricultural work is almost entirely done by horses, of which many fine teams are kept at a great expence. Large herds of deer run wild in Epping-forest and its branches, and Henhault-forest, to the detriment of the adjacent farmers, and the injury of the morals and industry of some of the neighbouring youth, who commence a career of dishonesty by deer-stealing.

The quantity of waste land, including the forests, is not estimated at more than 15,000 acres; a very small proportion for so large a county! There are still some open-field lands in the arable districts.

State of Property, and Occupation of Lands.—The landed property in this county is more divided than in many others, there being few over-grown estates, though

though many considerable ones. The land is mostly cultivated by tenantry, who are on a respectable footing. Farms are generally of moderate size: the largest are in the sea coast hundreds, where marshes of great extent are often occupied by individuals.

Natural Productions.—Fish are plentiful on the coast and in the creeks of this county; and it has long been particularly celebrated for the oysters which are fattened among the salt marshes below Colchester, and about Mersea island. These afford a considerable article for exportation, as well to other parts of the kingdom, as abroad.

There are several decoys for wild fowl along the coast.

Essex is perhaps less of a mineral county than almost any in the kingdom, and nothing is scarcer in it than stone. Some mineral waters, however, have been discovered, of a saline nature, but none of these have retained their reputation except that of Tilbury, near the fort of that name, which appears to be impregnated with earthy and muriatic salts. Pyrites are met with in some of the cliffs, especially those near Harwich, together with a variety of petrified fossils.

Manufactures and Population.—The eastern counties of England were some of the earliest seats of manufacture in this kingdom, foreigners having at different periods been settled in them for the purpose of working up the English wool, which in more early times used to be exported in a raw state. Essex, however, does not seem to have acquired any peculiar branch of manufacture, till the persecutions, civil and religious, carried on in the Low Countries under the duke of Alva, drove into this country a number of artisans and workmen, a body of whom settled at Colchester, where they introduced the manufacture of bays. This branch of trade flourished considerably, and spread over the neighbouring tract of country, affording plentiful employment for the poor, as well in weaving, as in the spinning and dressing of wool; and, of course, augmenting population. The towns of Bocking, Braintree, and Coggeshall, especially, participated with Colchester in this manufacture; and it still continues to employ a good many hands in these places, though it is now on the decline, chiefly from the rivalry of Rochdale and other places in the north of England, where fuel and provisions are cheaper. The immediate neighbourhood of London also gives employment to a number of people in the various works carried on about Stratford. Otherwise, Essex is almost entirely dependent upon agriculture for its population; and the improved state of cultivation

vation generally prevalent furnishes a demand for labour sufficient to keep up an appearance of populoufness in the numerous towns and villages.

Civil and Ecclesiastical Divisions.—The original inhabitants of Essex were by the Romans ranked among the *Trinobantes*. Under the heptarchy this county made part of the kingdom of the same name, or of the *East Saxons*. It is now divided into twenty larger parts, viz. fourteen hundreds, five half hundreds, and one royal liberty. The parishes are reckoned at 403; the market towns at twenty-four, but in some of these the market is difused. Essex is comprehended within the Home circuit. Its county town is Chelmsford.

It is in the diocese of London, of which it composes the greater part; and is subdivided into the

Archdeaconry of Essex,	containing	7	deanries,	175	churches and chapels.
———— of Colchester,	————	5	————	161	————
———— of Middlesex (part)	—	3	————	83	————
				419	

Essex sends eight members to Parliament; viz. two for the county, and two each for Colchester, Harwich, and Malden. It pays twenty-four parts in 513 of the land-tax, and furnishes 960 men to the militia.

GENERAL ACCOUNT OF
HERTFORDSHIRE.

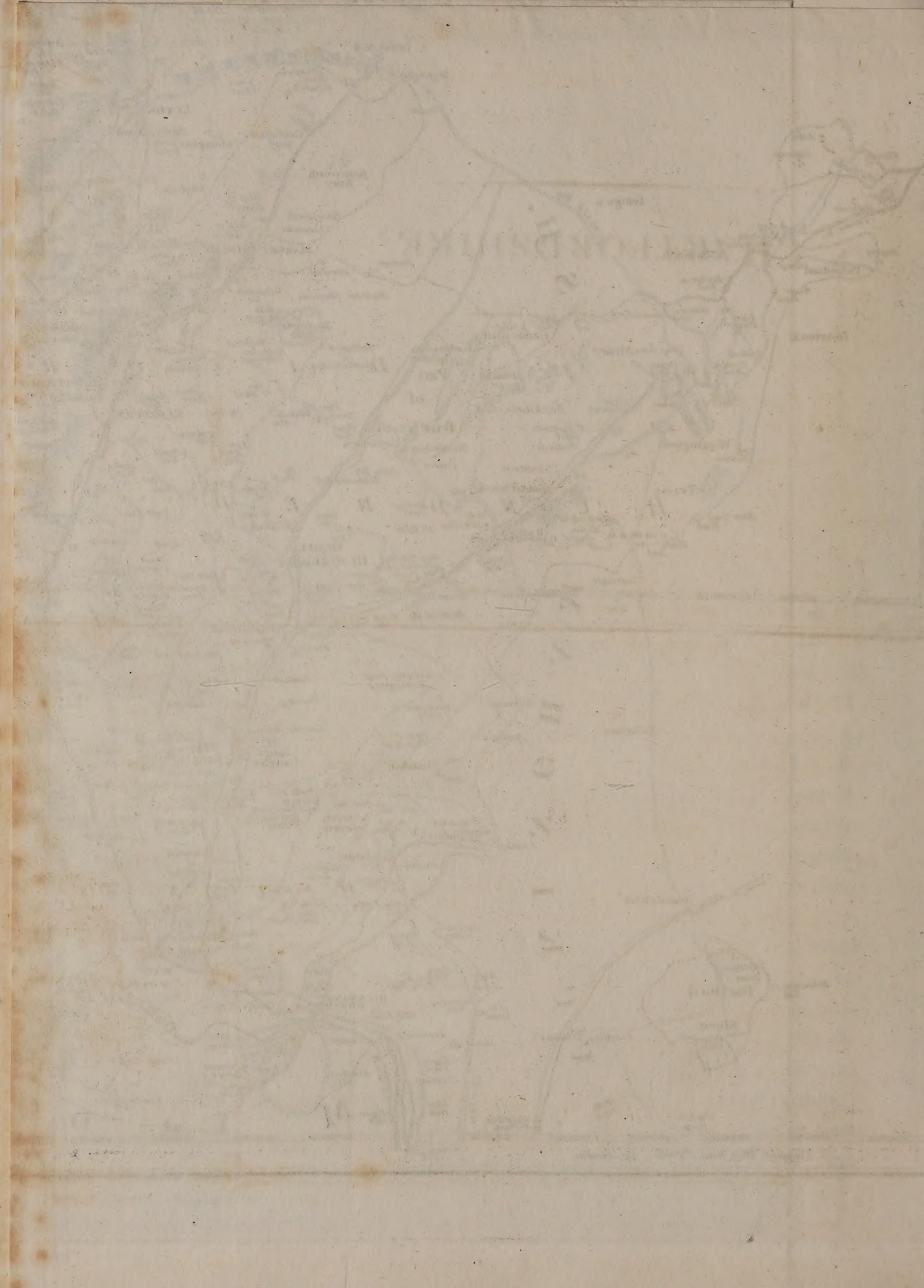
THE county of Hertford is bounded on the east by Essex, on the north by Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire, on the west by the latter county and that of Buckingham, and on the south by Middlesex. Its figure is extremely irregular, running out into hooks and projections, especially on the north-western and southern sides. Its limits are every where artificial, except for a short space on the Essex side, where it is bounded by rivers. Its greatest extent from north to south is about twenty-five miles ; from east to west thirty-five miles. Its contents have been estimated at 451,000 acres.

It has two principal rivers, the Lea and the Coln ; the former uniting all the streams of the eastern and middle parts ; the latter, of the western.

The *Lea*, springing out of Leagrave-marsh near Luton, in Bedfordshire, crosses the middle of Hertfordshire in a south-eastern direction to Hertford, where, making a semi-circular sweep, and receiving first the *Maram* or *Mimerum*, a small stream from Welwyn, and then the *Bean*, which rises near Yardley, and the united *Rib* and *Quin*, coming down by Standon, it passes by Ware, and soon after, being joined by the *Ash*, it turns directly southwards to the Essex border near Hoddesdon, where it receives the *Stort* from Bishop's Stortford. From this point it makes the limit between Hertfordshire and Essex, and thence flows on between the latter county and Middlesex to its junction with the Thames. The Lea is navigable from Hertford to its termination ; its communicating river the Stort is so from Bishop's Stortford.

The *Coln* rises, a small stream, from the neighbourhood of Kit's-end in Middlesex, whence flowing northward, it passes North Mims, and turning to the west, is first increased by the *Muse* or *Verulam-river*, which rising on the Bedfordshire border, flows by the ancient Verulam at St. Albans to its junction with the Coln at Colney-street. Hence the Coln flows by Watford to Rickmansworth, being first joined by the *Gade*, coming down from Gaddestden to Hemel Hemsted, and bringing with it a stream from Berkhamstead ; and then by the *Chefham* river





out of Buckinghamshire. Below Rickmanfworth the Coln leaves the county, and becomes the limit between Middlesex and Buckinghamshire, to the Thames.

The *New-river*, which supplies London with water, has its head near Ware in this county, whence it is carried in an artificial channel parallel and near to the Lea, and enters Middlesex not far from Waltham Crofs.

Face of Country and Soil.—Few tracts of land have a more uneven surface than that which composes Hertfordshire. It is an almost perpetual rapid fucceffion of hill and dale, the eminences gentle indeed, and rising to no considerable height. In general, the country ascends towards the northern side, on the edge of which, bordering on Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire, runs the ridge of chalk hills, which crosses a great part of the kingdom in this direction. It is on this northern side that all the streams above enumerated take their rise, shewing by their clearness the stony nature of the soil through which they take their course. The prevailing soil of Hertfordshire is a strong, red, shelly clay, intimately mixed with flints, incumbent upon a bed of chalk, which lies at different depths from the surface, and by its excellent quality affords to the husbandman an inexhaustible material for improvement. Other soils are, various gradations of loam, from the strongest to the weakest kinds, more or less mixed with gravel, and with chalk, which last may be said to be the predominating ingredient: also, a small portion of moor or peat earth in the beds of rivers and low meadows adjoining; and in one corner of the county a hungry clay full of blue pebbles, fit only for the growth of underwood. In general, Hertfordshire, though not among the most fertile countries to the view, is eminently fitted for the growth of grain. The abundance of flint stones in its ploughed lands strikes a stranger with an appearance of poverty, which is not verified by fact. On the Cambridgeshire border it has some extensive open downs, on a thin chalky soil, and covered with a fine short turf devoted to the feeding of sheep.

Climate.—There is perhaps scarcely any county in England which in this respect can vie with Hertfordshire; and it is accordingly the residence of more nobility and gentry in proportion than almost any other. An air pure and dry, but not bleak, equally favours the health of the inhabitants, and the maturation and goodness of the products of the earth.

Agriculture and Products.—Hertfordshire is in high reputation as a corn county. The grains chiefly cultivated are wheat, barley, and oats, for all which some

land is found in almost every farm peculiarly suited. The white wheat of this county is much valued by millers for the fine flour it yields. The barley is malted in large quantities for the London market. Various intervening crops are grown, such as pulse of all kinds, buck-wheat, cinquefoil, lucern, trefoil, turnips, and potatoes. In the rotation of crops, and the application of manures, the farmers are very skilful, and in no country has the art of agriculture triumphed more over natural defects. The manures are various. Chalk is the capital one for the clay lands, and is laid on in large quantities. The best is generally reckoned to be that which comes up from the greatest depth. Farm-yard dung, composts, &c. are also used as in other places; but the spring or top-dressings are a peculiar feature of Hertfordshire farming. These consist of foot ashes, malt dust, and oil-cake dust or powder. They are applied to sickly or backward crops upon poor lands, and have a wonderful effect in bringing them forwards and enriching them. Horses are for the most part used for the purposes of agriculture, though some gentlemen have introduced oxen.

The pastures and meadows of Hertfordshire are chiefly the hedge greens surrounding the corn fields, for the width of fifteen to twenty feet or more. There are however, meadows in the course of the rivers and brooks, several of which have been much improved by the practice of flooding.

As to the live stock, it chiefly consists of horses for the plough, milch cows, and sheep, principally ewes. Few of these are bred in the county; and each farmer purchases the kinds which suit him best. Swine are a profitable stock, and some attention is paid to their breed.

Hertfordshire is well wooded; independently of the parks and plantations about gentlemen's seats, the greatest part of the county is sprinkled with small woods and copses, occupying the most barren and gravelly spots. These yield a quick growth of underwood, which is cut periodically for charcoal, fire-wood, and other purposes. There is a good deal of oak timber in some parts fit for the navy and inferior shipping, but not much plank timber.

Occupation of Land.—The farms of Hertfordshire are of middling size, from 100*l.* to 400*l.* or 600*l.* per annum. The rents do not on an average exceed 12*s.* per acre. The land is for the most part enclosed, though there are many small common fields lying intermixed, which by agreement are cultivated in the same way as the inclosures. The largest parcels of common land are on the Cambridgeshire border.

border. The waste lands are computed at about 4500 acres ; including the sheep downs on the skirts of the county.

Trade and Population.—No considerable manufacture can be expected in an agricultural district like Hertfordshire, which has, besides, the capital defect of great scarcity of fuel, though this will be in some degree remedied by the canals lately projected. At St. Albans, and near Rickmansworth, are cotton mills for the making of candlewicks ; and the neighbourhood of Dunstable and Luton partakes in the straw-plat manufactory, which affords some employment for the women and children. The great business of the county, next to agriculture, is the malting, which is carried on to a great extent in and about Hertford, Ware, Baldock, Hitchin, Royston, &c. The malt made here is not only from Hertfordshire barley, but much is brought from Cambridgeshire and the isle of Ely for that purpose. It has a ready conveyance to London by means of the Lea navigation, which brings back the coal and coke used in the process. On several of the Hertfordshire rivulets paper-mills and other works are established, for which purposes they are peculiarly adapted from the clearness of their water, and the steadiness of their stream. The population of the county is considerable on the Essex and Middlesex sides ; and the numerous resident gentry entertain large families of servants and dependents.

Civil and Ecclesiastical Divisions.—Hertfordshire was part of the Roman division of *Cattieuchlani*. In the heptarchy, part of the county belonged to the *East Saxons*, and part to the *Mercians*. It is now comprised in the Home circuit, and divided into eight hundreds. Hertford is the county town. There are eighteen nominal market towns, and two parliamentary boroughs, Hertford and St. Albans, which, with the county, send six members. It pays eleven parts of the land tax, and provides 560 men to the national militia.

Hertfordshire is partly in the diocese of Lincoln, and partly in that of London.

In Lincoln diocese, and Huntingdon archdeaconry, are,

Deanry of Baldock,

Deanry of Hertford,

———— Berkhamstead,

———— Hitchin.

In London diocese are,

Deanry of St. Albans, in archdeaconry of ditto.

———— Braughing, in Middlesex archdeaconry.

THE RIVER THAMES.

THE first of British rivers is also the great trunk conveying the life-blood to the tract which is described in the present Work. In it unite all the streams which water the adjacent country. It bestows beauty and fertility on the wide vale through which it takes its winding course to the sea. Its channel connects the metropolis on one side with the central parts of the island, on the other with the remotest regions of the earth; and to it, a number of subordinate water-communitions by river and canal have their principal reference. It forms a natural limit between the provinces on each hand which it visits, during almost the whole of its tract. To trace it accurately, therefore, from its source to its termination, cannot be thought foreign or useless to our undertaking; and the importance of the subject may well justify the treating of it in a separate chapter.

Almost all rivers are formed in their origin by the conflux of a number of minute streams, none much distinguished from the rest; and the *head* of a river is generally an imaginary thing. The celebrity of the adult has however commonly produced a claim to the infant; and in the present instance, popular fame has marked out a *Thames-head*, which is a small perennial spring in the parish of Cotes, in Gloucestershire, about three miles from Cirencester, and within a quarter of a mile of the great Roman road formerly leading from that town to Bath. We shall here cut short all discussion concerning the true name of the upper part of the river, and the right of the supposed *Isis* to supersede the appellation of Thames, by observing, that as well in the most ancient records, as in common language at the present time, the name of *Tems* or *Thames* has been applied to the main stream from the source, to Oxford and the junction with the Tame, equally as to the river from thence to the sea.

Such is the copiousness of water in Thames-head, that an engine fixed in it throws up several tuns every minute into the Thames and Severn canal. The Head, however, does not, during the summer months, maintain a visible connection with the current of the river, and it is only at the village of Kemble in Wiltshire that a constant stream appears, which from its consequence and direction may without dispute be regarded as the *infant Thames*. Near this place it is crossed by its first rude bridge, and turns its first mill. Hence it flows on to the ancient but decayed borough

town



Map
of the
RIVER THAMES

10 Statute Miles
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

town of Cricklade, having first received the *Cburn*, a rivulet of longer course than its own, coming down by Cirencester. This accession, with that of other small streams from the eastern part of Wiltshire, renders it, at only nine miles from its source, navigable for barges of the burthen of six or seven tons; and reckoning its navigation from this point, it certainly far exceeds in length that of any other British river. The penury of water in summer, however, has always rendered the navigation of this part difficult and precarious; and since the formation of the Canal, which affords so much better a communication with Lechlade, this upper part of the river has been almost disused for the purpose of carriage.

Between Kempsford and Lechlade the Thames is enriched by the tribute of two streams, the *Cole* from Wiltshire, and the *Coln* from Gloucestershire, which last, the most considerable of the two, first washes the small market-town of Fairford, celebrated for the painted glass of its beautiful church. The Thames, now sensibly widened, flows on to Lechlade, near which place the navigable canal connecting it with the Severn forms its junction. This noble design, one of the great objects of the system of inland water-communication, was completed in the year 1789; and from that time, all the great sea-ports in the kingdom, and all the principal manufacturing districts, have enjoyed a mutual intercourse of navigation, not exposed to the winds and waves of the ocean. The distance between the two rivers along the canal is thirty-eight miles. From Lechlade the Thames is capable of carrying barges of fifty or sixty tons burthen, though the droughts in summer and floods in winter oppose too frequent impediments to their passage. Several locks are formed near this part; and the navigation requires these aids at proper distances as far down the river as Boulter's-lock near Maidenhead, below which they are no longer necessary. A little below the town it receives the *Lech*, a small stream rising in the Cotswold, and running down between Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire.

The Thames, which in the earlier part of its course became the limit between Gloucestershire and Wiltshire, now parts the counties of Oxford and Berks. On this limit it is first crossed by Radcot-bridge, a place known in history as the scene of a battle between the Earl of Derby, afterwards Henry IV. with other barons, and Robert de Vere, duke of Ireland, in which the latter was defeated. Near the bridge a cut commences, lately made for the improvement of the navigation, which after passing round a meadow, rejoins the river a little below.

Hence,

Hence, at some distance on the south, the town of Farringdon appears in view, with its pleasing hill, which commands a beautiful and extensive prospect over the valley of the Thames and the circumjacent country. It has been the subject of an elegant poem by Mr. Pye, the present laureat, whose paternal seat is situated in the neighbourhood. The town of Bampton lies at about an equal distance to the north.

Further on, the *Windrush* empties itself into the Thames. This rivulet, taking its rise in the Cotswold, passes the market-towns of Burford and Witney in Oxfordshire, the latter famous for its manufacture of blankets. A little beyond this junction, the Thames makes a turn northwards, and flowing by the grounds of Stanton-Harcourt, the ancient seat of the Harcourt family, passes near Ensham, to the influx of the *Evenlode*; a stream, which coming from Worcestershire and Gloucestershire, crosses the county of Oxford by the town of Charlbury, and afterwards receives the *Glym*, flowing through Blenheim-park, with which it proceeds to the Thames. Bending round to the south, the Thames passes by the ruins of Godstow nunnery, and soon after reaches the city of Oxford. Here first its banks are crowned with objects worthy of its fame, though the fictitious and poetical *Iffs* has usurped the classic honours due, according to what we deem the preferable opinion, to the real Thames. The celebrity of this seat of the muses, and the varied magnificence of its structures, in which Gothic solemnity is singularly blended with Grecian taste, might alone suffice to confer renown on the stream which fixed the choice of its situation, and contributed to its pleasure and ornament. Another river, of no inconsiderable magnitude, shares, however, in the honours of Oxford; the *Cherwell*, which here makes a junction with the Thames. The *Cherwell* rises in Northamptonshire, some miles above Banbury; and holding an almost direct southern course, passes that town, and for some way becomes the boundary between the counties of Northampton and Oxford; then crossing the latter, it winds through a fertile country, and passing amidst sequestered meadows to the east side of Oxford, branches into several streamlets, which at length uniting, issue in the Thames.

The water-communication between London and Oxford is certainly known to have been more ancient than the Conquest. The length of the distance, however, and the difficulties and delays incident to a river-navigation, caused that great necessary of life, coal, to be a very dear article when brought by this conveyance; wherefore,

wherefore a plan was formed of communicating by means of a canal with the Warwickshire collieries, which has lately been completed. This canal extends from Oxford to Coventry, near eighty-two miles, and at the latter city makes a junction with another, which communicates with the great chain of inland canal-navigation. As the Oxford canal terminates in the Thames, it makes an important addition to the connections of that river.

Still holding a direct southern course, the Thames flows on to Nuneham Courtney, the elegant seat of earl Harcourt; whence, making a bend to the west, it reaches the town of Abingdon. Within a mile of this place a cut has been made to improve and shorten the navigation. Abingdon is a borough-town, and sends one member to parliament. Its chief trade is in malt, of which it exports large quantities to the metropolis by means of the river. Here the Thames receives the tributary waters of the *Ock*, a rivulet rising in the vale of Whitehorse, in Berkshire; and then, turning again in a winding course towards the south-east, it is joined by the *Thame* or *Tame*. This river, which has been supposed to confer its name on the united stream (an honour to which by its relative importance it is by no means entitled) takes its origin in the eastern part of the Chiltern hills in Buckinghamshire, whence, after winding through the southern side of Aylesbury-vale, it reaches the borders of Oxfordshire, and washes the market town of its own name, from which, probably, it receives its appellation. Flowing on some way further as the boundary stream, it then crosses Oxfordshire, and at the village of Dorchester, a place of ancient consequence, mingles obscurely with the Thames.

Wallingford, mentioned as a considerable city in our early histories, and now a handsome borough-town, is the next place of note visited by the Thames. It contributes to the business of the river by the large supplies of corn and malt which it sends to the London market. A stone bridge of nineteen arches here crosses the stream. Hence, in a directly southern course, it flows some miles through rural scenes of distinguished beauty, till, bending eastward, it reaches Caversham-bridge, whence the county-town of Reading appears in full view at a small distance, situated on the Kennet, which somewhat further on pours its copious waters into the Thames.

The *Kennet* rises on the eastern side of Wiltshire, and first passes the town of Marlborough: then, arriving at the borders of Berkshire, it washes Hungerford. Below this place it divides into several streams which flow through boggy mea-

dows, in their course to Newbury. This is a populous town, and formerly celebrated for the clothing manufacture, now exchanged for the malt and corn trade, of which articles it sends large quantities to London by the Kennet, rendered navigable for the largest barges hence to its junction with the Thames. Reading has made nearly the same exchange of commerce, though it still also possesses some branches of manufacture, particularly those of sail-cloth, large floor cloths for painting, and ribands; some pins, silk handkerchiefs, felts for the paper-makers, and rugs, are likewise made here. Its once famous manufactory of gauze is almost reduced to nothing. Reading is a parliamentary borough, as well as a provincial capital, and the most considerable town in its county.

The Thames now makes a sweep to the northwards, and a few miles onward receives the *Loddon*. This rivulet is composed of several streams, of which that which has the longest course rises near Basingstoke in Hampshire. One branch comes down from Oakingham; another crosses a part of Windsor-forest, which gave occasion to Pope to introduce in his poem of that name the elegant fiction of the metamorphosis of Lodona, a happy imitation of Ovidian fable. The banks of the Thames are soon after decorated with the charming scenery of Park-place, the seat of the late field-marshal Conway, where the character of beauty is almost exchanged for that of grandeur. The market-town of Henley is the next object, a place of some consequence, governed by a corporation, and participating in the malt and corn trade of the Thames. A stone bridge of handsome architecture here crosses the river.

A little further, the Thames reaches Buckinghamshire, and taking an eastern course, after many beautiful meanders, arrives at Great Marlow. This is an ancient borough-town, sharing in the peculiar manufacture of its county, that of bone-lace, as well as in the provision-trade of the river. The *Wick*, a rivulet descending from the Wycombes in Buckinghamshire, next mixes with the Thames, which thenceforth takes a direction to the south declining towards the east for many miles. It soon passes beneath the lofty wooded banks of Cliefden, a seat of renown in the annals of licentious pleasure, when it was

The bower of wanton Shrewsbury and love.

George

George Villiers duke of Buckingham was its founder. Frederick prince of Wales for some time inhabited the house; and the earl of Inchiquin is its present owner. At the foot of the hill, a beautiful spot called Cliefden-spring, from a rill which issuing from the wood pours its pure waters into the Thames, affords a favourite banqueting place for water parties. Hence the river proceeds to Maidenhead-bridge, an elegant structure of Portland stone, consisting of seven principal and six smaller arches, leading by the great western road to the neighbouring market-town whence it takes its name.

The next distinguished places visited by the Thames are Windsor and Eton; and few are the objects on its banks from the association of which it receives more celebrity. Windsor is an ancient borough of considerable extent and population; but its fame is solely due to its magnificent castle, the noblest palace of the kings of England, and rendered illustrious by some of its greatest characters and events. This edifice, which unites Gothic grandeur with the splendour and elegance of later times, was first a seat and castle of William the Conqueror. Many succeeding kings made it their temporary residence, and added to its conveniencies and decorations; but the prince from whom it received most in augmentation and renown, was the warlike and victorious Edward III. whose birth here gave him the appellation of Edward of Windsor. He made it the seat of his favourite order of the Garter, and enlarged it with many magnificent works under the direction of the celebrated William of Wickham. Few of our later sovereigns have failed to shew their regard for this venerable pile by additions and improvements; and it has long been the constant summer residence of his present Majesty, who has enriched it with many decorations, and bestowed unceasing attention on its repair. The castle is seated on a conspicuous eminence rising with a gentle ascent from the river, over the rich and cultured vale of which, together with an extensive circle of surrounding country, it enjoys a delightful prospect, while itself affords the most striking object in all the views of the vicinity. Immediately behind the castle, Windsor-park and forest stretch for many miles into the county of Berks, and by their wild and wooded scenery give a romantic cast to a tract, the scene of royal amusement through many ages, and a favourite theme of poetry.

Eton, on the opposite side of the river, has acquired its fame from a distinction at least as valuable in the eye of a philosopher as that of its proud neighbour—that of being the seat of the principal establishment for literary education in the kingdom.

kingdom. Its college, uniting the purposes of a religious with a scholastic institution, was founded by Henry VI. a prince better fitted for a cloister than a throne. Its endowments, which were untouched at the Reformation, have continued to increase in value, so as at present to afford large emoluments to a provost and fellows, and to maintain seventy scholars on the foundation. But these are a small proportion of the youth, whom the reputation of the masters, and other advantages of the place, have for some generations drawn hither from all parts of the kingdom. The college affords a striking object to the Thames prospects, in its majestic Gothic chapel, which lifts its airy pinnacles above all the adjacent buildings.

Leaving these scenes, the river proceeds to Old Windsor, adorned with its numerous villas; and soon after, quitting Berkshire, becomes the northern boundary of Surrey. The first conspicuous object it reaches in this county is Cooper's hill, an eminence situated with peculiar happiness for an extensive prospect of the Thames and its banks, Windsor-castle, and a variety of fine seats. So well did its animating scenery inspire the poet Denham, that the verses he devoted to it are in a strain so superior to his ordinary composition, as alone to have survived the neglect into which his works in general are fallen. The green level of Runnymede, which the Thames next waters on the same bank, is a celebrated spot in the annals of liberty. Here the coward tyrant king John, hunted into the toils by his martial barons, was compelled to ratify that Great Charter of freedom, still considered as the basis of that security of person and property, which has long been so peculiarly the blessing of Englishmen.

Somewhat lower, on the opposite side, the *Coln* unites its waters with the Thames. This river, composed of several streams from Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire, descends from Chesham and Rickmansworth to Uxbridge, below which, dividing into several branches, and passing Colnbrook, it finishes its course near Staines. This last is a market town in Middlesex, at which an elegant stone bridge is now building over the Thames. Proceeding still southwards, the river flows on to Chertsey, a decayed market town in Surrey, once noted for a rich abbey of Benedictines. Here in humble retirement that very ingenious poet and good man, Cowley, ended his days. Chertsey has an elegant modern stone bridge.

Winding away to the east amid pleasant villas, the Thames next reaches Weybridge, at which place the river *Wey* brings in its tribute. The Wey rises in Hampshire, and entering Surrey near Farnham, passes the towns of Godalmin and

Guilford,

Guilford, from the first of which it is navigable to the Thames. Vessels of considerable burden go as far as Guilford; and this accession to the navigation of the Thames will now be much increased by the Basingstoke canal, which makes a junction with the Wey about a mile above Weybridge. The elegant seat of Oatlands, now in possession of the duke of York, is next visited and beautified by the Thames; which soon after flows beneath the bridge of Walton, a pile of brick ornamented with stone. The fine village of Sunbury, and that of Hampton, are the next objects on the Middlesex side; the Surrey border being for some space destitute of interesting scenery.

At the village of East Moulsey, the river *Mole* falls into the Thames. This small stream, rising in the southern parts of Surrey, flows by Dorking, and winding through a tract of meadows by Cobham and Esher, here pours in its scanty waters. On the opposite shore the magnificent palace of Hampton-court rises to view. This stately pile was begun by Cardinal Wolsey, who rendering it too sumptuous for a subject, presented it to the crown, of which it became one of the noblest possessions. The ancient structure came to decay, but a small part of it forms the present edifice, which was erected by king William III. under the direction of Sir Christopher Wren. It was the favourite residence of that renowned king, who decorated it with gardens in the taste of his native country. In the late reigns it has been little occupied by the royal family; and its numerous apartments have been granted as residencies to private families, with the reserve of those peculiarly devoted to the state of a palace, which character it eminently displays among the mansions belonging to the crown of Great Britain. A wooden bridge crosses the river opposite the palace.

Hence the Thames, making a sweep round the park, turns northwards, and soon arrives at Kingston, an ancient market and corporate town of moderate extent, having a considerable trade in malt. Its bridge over the river is of great antiquity. A small stream called the *Hogs-mill* river coming from the neighbourhood of Epsom, here falls into the Thames. The pleasing village of Teddington is the next object on the bank, said to derive its name from a corruption of Tide-ending-town. In fact, the tide, though checked by the new bridges which have been erected on the lower part of the river, still continues to reach this place. Teddington was the rectory and residence of that most worthy man and ingenious philosopher, Stephen Hales.

The Thames now hastens to those luxuriant scenes where the vicinity of the metropolis is perpetually indicated by the creations of art and opulence. The first remarkable object on the Middlesex side is Strawberry-hill, a villa exhibiting in its architecture and decorations, external and internal, the purest imitation of the Gothic style, under the direction of its present owner, Horace Walpole, now earl of Orford. The beauties of Twickenham next appear, where a range of elegant villas, with gardens sloping down to the water's edge, decorate the stream from which they receive their principal charm. Among these, that so long inhabited by Pope must excite the liveliest interest in every breast sensible to the superior graces of poetry, and the honours of literary fame. The house has been suited by additions to the occupation of a richer inhabitant, but its original form and the disposition of the grounds have been preserved with all possible attention. The opposite shore is crowned with the groves of "umbrageous Ham," in the midst of which is the ancient mansion of Ham-house, now the seat of the earl of Dyfart, left in its original state of gloomy grandeur.

Hence, through beautiful meadows, interspersed with charming country seats, the river with an easy bend takes its course to the foot of Richmond-hill, having first passed the village of Petersham, embosomed in trees, and backed by the shade of Richmond-park. Richmond is a name associated with every idea of rural beauty in its most polished and ornamented style. It is the country maid fashioned by the accomplishments of a capital, and borrowing the graces of simplicity rather to set off than conceal her charms. In the prospect from Richmond-hill *all* is elegance and beauty, and the only contrast is the variety of pleasing objects. The river itself, indeed, divided by islands, and impeded by weedy shallows, is somewhat less suited to the splendid grandeur of the rest of the scenery than might be desired. From the stream, the successive scenes that come in view are all enchantment—the verdant meads on one side, the houses and sloping gardens of Richmond on the other, its handsome stone bridge, through the arches of which appear other villas, groves, and gardens—all strain the attention to the highest pitch of delightful sensation.

Richmond, anciently Sheen, was long a part of the royal domains, and possessed a splendid palace, of which the small remains are now occupied by private persons. Though no more a regal residence, it is closely connected with the crown by its manor, parks, and gardens. It is itself a large and populous village, the residence of many persons of rank and opulence, who have chosen this favourite spot for their
country

country retreat. That delightful poet and amiable man, James Thomson, passed here the latter years of his life, and derived from its charming scenery some of those ideas of rural beauty which he has transfused with such advantage into his Seasons. It would be tedious to enumerate all the seats and villas which the Thames visits in its course from Richmond-bridge. At the end of the next reach it washes Isleworth, a village in Middlesex: and here receives a small rivulet, the *Crane*, coming from the western side of the county by Cranford, and then crossing Hounslow-heath, where its waters are employed in working the powder mills, as they are at Isleworth in turning the large corn mills erected there.

Bending to the east, the Thames now flows between the decorated lawns of Sion-house, on the one side, and the royal gardens of Richmond on the other. Sion-house, once a convent, is now a very magnificent seat of the duke of Northumberland. The extensive walks of Richmond gardens terminate at the village of Kew, rendered celebrated for its royal gardens, adorned with their lofty pagoda and a variety of other ornamental buildings, and containing a palace of plain and neat architecture, which has been chiefly devoted to the younger part of the royal family. The gardens are remarkable for the variety and noble growth of their exotic trees and shrubs; and an appendage to them, the botanic garden, is precious in the eye of science, as containing the greatest and most valuable collection of exotic plants to be met with in Europe. All the vegetable treasures collected in so many voyages and travels for discovery through the remotest parts of the globe during the present reign, have been accumulated here: and the *Hortus Kewensis* of Mr. Aiton is the richest catalogue of botanical rarities that has been given to the public.

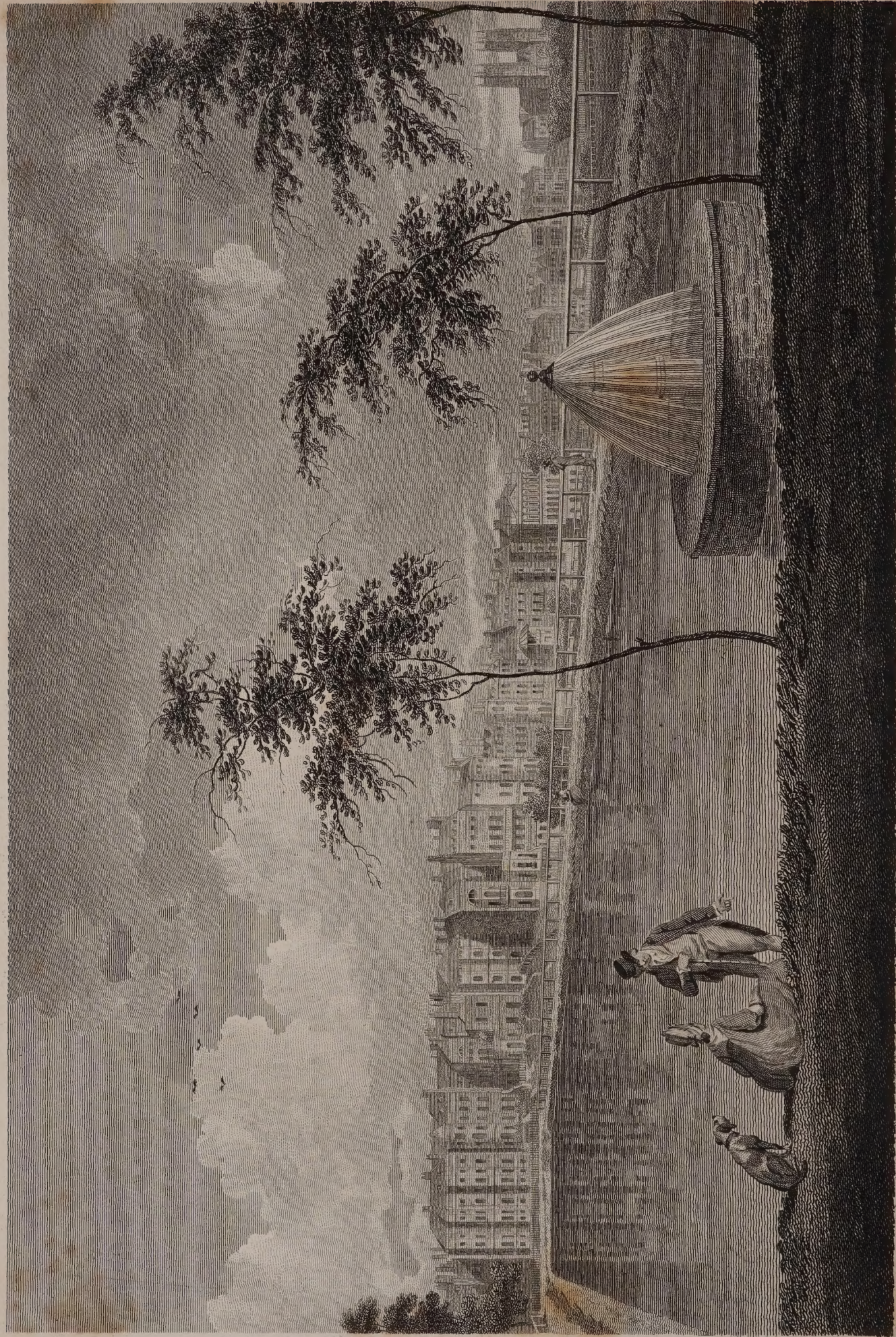
Opposite to Kew is Brentford, the county town of Middlesex, a very long and unpleasing range of buildings, adding little beauty to the Thames prospects. The river itself, contracted by a line of islands overgrown with osiers, loses here its dignity. It receives, however, some tributary waters from the *Brent*, a rivulet coming down through the central parts of Middlesex. At Brentford, also, the grand Junction Canal, uniting the canals of the middle of the kingdom with the navigation of the Thames, has its termination. The town carries on a considerable trade with London in corn, malt, and other commodities. At the end of the town the river is crossed by Kew-bridge, a handsome structure of stone, lately completed.

Hence, in large flexures, the Thames flows on eastward to the metropolis, presenting in its course a repetition of those scenes of cultured art and opulence which

it left behind. To art alone, indeed, its banks owe most of the beauty which distinguishes them from mere verdant meadows, since the general flatness and small elevation of the surface afford nothing to aid the natural picture. The river itself, indeed, sensibly increases in grandeur; and its open long reaches give many fine views of lake-like expansion. Mortlake, Barnes, Chiswick, and Hammersmith, with their elegant villas, seats, and pleasure grounds, successively enliven the stream, while intervening groves of lofty trees still keep up the idea of rural retirement. The villages of Putney and Fulham, connected by a long wooden bridge crossing the Thames, and rendered similar by the humble tower steeple on each side, are the commencement of that frequency of building, and bustle of population, which is henceforth to accompany the river for many miles. The bridge affords a striking station for a prospect on each hand, of which the first object above, on the Middlesex side, is the palace of the bishops of London at Fulham, suited by its venerable appearance to the character of the occupiers. Putney is a place of considerable extent, and gave birth to some celebrated persons, among whom were Thomas Cromwell, earl of Essex, in the reign of Henry VIII. and the late illustrious historian of the Roman empire, Edward Gibbon.

On the Surry side, the populous village of Wandsworth soon succeeds, the greatest part of it covering a rising ground at some distance from the river. The buildings on the river bank are chiefly distilleries and other manufactories, which now begin to crowd upon the Thames. At this place falls in the little river *Wandle*, rising a few miles distance in Surrey, and remarkable for the number of mills, printing grounds, and other works, to the purposes of which it serves during its short course. Hence the Thames, bordered by meadows and kitchen gardens for the supply of London, flows on to Battersea, where it is crossed by a wooden bridge, connecting this village with that of Chelsea. A curious and powerful horizontal windmill, originally designed for the grinding and pressing of rape seed, and forming a high and massy tower, is the most remarkable object on the bank at Battersea.

Chelsea is a very populous place, now almost entirely connected with the western side of the metropolis by contiguous buildings. It contains many things worthy of notice; but of these, by much the most remarkable, in relation to the Thames, is its noble college, or hospital for the reception of maimed and superannuated soldiers. The extensive front towards the water is a very conspicuous object in the prospect from the opposite bank. Beyond it, the physic or botanical garden



VIEW of the QUEEN'S WALK,

in the Green Park.

J. G. P. del.

J. G. P. sculp.

garden belonging to the company of Apothecaries in London, descends to the water's edge, and affords the venerable appearance of its aged cedars of Lebanon. The garden and rotunda of that celebrated place of amusement, Ranelagh, soon succeeds; and near it, among islands of willows, a cut runs up from the Thames, terminating in a basin belonging to the Chelsea water works, which, by means of a steam engine, supply not only the village itself with water, but throw it into large reservoirs in the Green and Hyde parks.

The long reach of the river from Chelsea to Lambeth affords fewer objects than the immediate vicinity of the metropolis would lead one to expect; and the shores in some parts exhibit the scenery of sequestered retirement, though the stream itself is enlivened by the frequent pleasure-boat. At the next bend, however, the towers of Lambeth, Westminster-bridge and abbey, and the edifices of the two cities, come into sudden view. The well-known residence of the archbishop of Canterbury at Lambeth is far from being distinguished by architectural magnificence; yet the venerable air of antiquity presented by its towers, and the avenue of trees bordering the river beyond it, afford no unpleasing approach to the splendid scenes that succeed. The meanness of the irregular line of houses between the palace and bridge cannot, however, but offend every lover of congruity. The commencement of the city of Westminster on the other bank is more ornamental, though not adequate to the situation. The Abbey, indeed, detains the eye by a solemn grandeur not unworthy of the sentiments its name and destination inspire; and the majesty of the bridge, which bestrides and seems to exercise dominion over the broad stream that flows beneath, renders it a suitable entrance to the splendours of the commercial metropolis of Europe.

Westminster-bridge was erected under the superintendence of Charles Labelye, a Frenchman, and by its solid grandeur and elegant simplicity does great honour to the taste and abilities of the architect. Its extent is 1223 feet; its arches, of a semi-circular form, are fifteen in number, the central one being seventy-six feet in the span. The piers are semi-octangular; and a balustrade crowns the works. The breadth within the balustrade is forty-four feet. The whole building is of Portland-stone, laid with excellent masonry, and as yet exhibiting no marks of decay. The first stone was laid in January 1739, and twelve years were employed in finishing the structure. Its cost was 389,500*l.*; a sum to which a fourth might be added in estimating it at the present value of money. The grandeur arising from size,

strength, and proportion, is the characteristic of this edifice; and that, with this, the general effect is not that of heaviness, must be regarded as a proof of extraordinary skill in the designer. From its summit one of the finest views of the united cities is presented; their principal objects opening in succession to the sight, as the river makes its large sweep from Westminster to London, compelling the impenetrable line of buildings to follow the same direction. St. Paul's cathedral towers in the centre, the undisputed monarch of the whole.

To describe with any minuteness the edifices which border the Thames in its progress through London, would be to write a volume. We shall think it sufficient just to sketch some of the most remarkable. It is to be premised, that foreigners have often observed, and with justice, that very little attention has been paid to decorate the banks of so noble a river in a manner worthy of it, and of the capital it adorns. Instead of the uniform and magnificent wharfs and quays, which accompany the course of much inferior streams in other capitals, the Thames is crowded and deformed by the most irregular succession of unsightly buildings, devoted to the particular purposes of the occupiers, and forming nothing like a grand whole. This, however, could only have been remedied by an original plan; and commercial utility is now become too valuable a thing to be sacrificed to the pleasure of the eye. But a spirit now reigns of making beauty and convenience coincide wherever such an union is practicable: and its effects are becoming more and more visible in the wharfs and other buildings on the Thames, as well as in the rest of the city.

The most agreeable objects on the river bank presently succeed Westminster-bridge on the Middlesex side. The embankment of Whitehall exhibits a pleasing mixture of good houses and gardens. Further on, the rustic gate at York-stairs, a work of Inigo Jones, strikes the eye. The lofty terrace of the Adelphi, founded upon vast arches, and crowned with a line of handsome houses, is a very laudable example of that union of commercial convenience with elegant architecture which may be hoped hereafter to extend along the banks of the Thames. The ancient palace of the Savoy which succeeds, is, in its present state of dilapidation, an interesting object to antiquaries alone. It serves as a contrast to its aspiring neighbour, Somerset-place, the only edifice of real magnificence which immediately borders the river. This vast pile of modern grandeur, occupying the place of an ancient palace, is more usefully devoted to the noble design of uniting in one spot the
greater

greater part of the public offices, together with the national institutions of science and art. The building contains a great quadrangle, having its principal front to the Strand. The river-front consists of a noble terrace raised upon a high rustic arcade, and surmounted by a range of building divided into several members by the varieties in its plan. However it may offend the eye of refined taste by its deviation from a grand simplicity, the effect of the whole (when finished) cannot fail to be that of distinguished magnificence. The Temple, which next presents its courts and gardens to the river, pleases by its cheerfulness; and in the mixture of ancient halls and chapels with modern rows of building, recalls to mind the academical scenery on the banks of the Isis. Between the Temple and Blackfriars-bridge a new dock and large warehouse is made for the accommodation of the west country barges. The warehouse is over the dock, so that the barges may be unloaded into it with ease.

The Surrey side of the river for this space offers to the view nothing but a very irregular assemblage of private wharfs, timber yards, and buildings devoted to the purposes of trade and manufacture. One of these alone is an object not unworthy its situation, a well-built lofty tower used in an improved mode of casting lead shot.

The bending channel of the river at length comes fully to front Blackfriars-bridge, the rival, and as many think, the successful one, of that of Westminster. Indeed, the style of the two bridges is so different, that each may be allowed its appropriate excellence without derogating from that of the other. The characteristic of Blackfriars-bridge is an airy lightness very striking in an edifice of such size and real strength. This it has attained by its elliptical arches, of which there are nine, the central one striding an hundred feet. The piers are relieved in their thickness by two Ionic pillars standing in a recess and supporting a pediment. The balustrade is lower and lighter than that of Westminster-bridge. The whole length of this bridge, from wharf to wharf, is 995 feet; its breadth forty-two feet. Its architect was Robert Mylne. The first stone was laid October 31, 1760; and it was completed in the latter end of 1768, at the expence of 152,840*l*. It is to be lamented that the stone has been so ill chosen as to have already incurred some serious decay and dilapidation. The view from the stream at some distance above this bridge is extremely grand. The beautiful steeple of St. Bride's on the left, the bridge in front, with St. Paul's rising in all its majesty above it, and a glimpse
G 2
through

through the arches of London-bridge with the Monument and numerous steeples, altogether afford a most imposing mass of scenery.

Passing Blackfriars-bridge, the river flows in one straight reach to that of London. A striking object, immediately contiguous to the former bridge on the Surrey side, is the ample shell of the Albion Mills, now several years remaining in the desolate state in which it was left by a fire which destroyed all but the walls. To this, on the same shore, succeed warehouses, dye-houses, iron founderies, and other works, terminating in an open wharf or street called Bankside, which would agreeably bound the stream, were the houses of better architecture. It is, indeed, singular that this mean row is the only place affording a public walk of any length on the immediate bank of the Thames during its whole course through the cities of London and Westminster; and probably few of the inhabitants of the metropolis have ever enjoyed from it the striking prospect of the crowd of steeples and public and private buildings in the most central part of London, which it affords. The London shore between the two bridges is a continued range of wharfs, yards, and warehouses, for the accommodation of that immense trade which supplies the metropolis with the necessaries and luxuries of life, and the materials of commerce. One edifice only, for show and pleasure, Fishmonger's-hall, contiguous to London-bridge, relieves the eye and imagination.

London-bridge, the last of the structures of this kind by which the Thames is crossed in its progress to the sea, and till the present century, the only communication between London and Southwark, is a building, the venerable antiquity of which may in some measure apologise for its faults; for the present bridge of stone, succeeding older wooden ones, dates as far back as the year 1209. National vanity called it the wonder of the world; and perhaps the world cannot show so huge a mass of deformity and defect. Its nineteen arches, scarcely any two of them alike in size or proportion, are all Gothic except the modern central one; and their number, with the thickness of the piers, and the enormous sterlings projecting on each side for their protection, so dam up the channel of the river, as to occasion a fall of five feet at low water, the cause of an annual loss of lives, and a great impediment to navigation. Much cost has been bestowed on its improvement both in its upper and under parts. The defects of the latter seem incurable; but as a road to travel over, it has been rendered equally commodious with the other bridges, principally by taking down a row of buildings on each side, with
which



A. Dudley sculp.

VIEW OF LONDON BRIDGE.

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C. Dwyer del.

which it was, within memory, most preposterously loaded, and which reduced its breadth to that of a narrow street. Its length is 915 feet. The entrance it gives to London from the Borough is rendered striking by the handsome steeple of St. Magnus at its foot, the fine column of the Monument just beyond, and the numerous public edifices in full view. Some arches of the bridge are occupied by water-works for the supply of the city with that necessary; and at Hungerford-stairs above, and Shadwell below, are other works of the same kind. It is a great addition to the utility of the Thames that it yields to the metropolis an inexhaustible source of water, wholesome, and sufficiently pure for a variety of purposes, as well as copious enough for the ready extinguishing of fires. The Thames water continues fresh as far as Woolwich, and even there is brackish only at spring-tides. It is in peculiar esteem for watering ships in long voyages; a kind of fermentation that it at first undergoes, leaving it remarkably pure and sweet.

London-bridge forms the partition between the river-navigation and the sea-navigation of the Thames. Immediately below it commences the *Port of London*, and the forest of masts that rises in direct view, and stretches beyond the reach of the sight, announces the prodigious magnitude of that commerce which supplies the wants of an immense metropolis, and extends its arms to the remotest parts of the globe. The limits of the port reach from London-bridge to the North Foreland in Kent, and the Naze in Essex; but the ships trading to London usually moor from the bridge to Limehouse, in which space it is computed that about 800 sail can lie afloat at their moorings at low water. This space is called the pool. The part near the bridge, on account of the shallowness of the water, is occupied by the smaller vessels; the lower part, by the larger. The East India ships come no higher than Blackwall and Deptford. The height to which the spring-tides rise is eighteen feet just below London-bridge, and twenty feet at Deptford.

A stranger would naturally look for the quays and wharfs made for the accommodation of this great quantity of shipping; but he would learn, that except the *legal* quays about a quarter of a mile in length between London-bridge and the Tower, the rest of the business is done at the sufferance wharfs, irregularly interspersed on the banks, and so inadequate to the purpose, that lighters are obliged to be employed for the loading and unloading of a great proportion of the goods, to the heavy expence and detriment of the merchant. He would also lament the contraction and embarrassment of the stream from the tiers of ships moored in the midst of it,
and

and reaching over from each side, so as at some times scarcely to afford passage, and liable to various injuries. These evils, however, have risen to such a height with the increased commerce of the river, that they are likely soon to enforce the execution of one of the several plans which have lately been proposed for the construction of docks and quays on the banks.

Resuming our progress down the river, the first remarkable object is Billingsgate-dock, a small basin for the reception of vessels, particularly those laden with fish, of which article this is the great wholesale market. A little further is the Custom-house, a long regular building, having a wharf to the river. Its front to Thames-street is rendered difficult of access by the narrowness of that long street, continually crowded with carts, and a most incommodious centre of the vast commerce of the river. The Tower of London is the next remarkable object; a place, in its triple character of fortress, palace, and prison, of high renown in English history, and associated with many of its most atrocious events;

With many a foul and midnight murder fed.

Within a large enclosure it contains a great and irregular mass of ancient and modern building, now serving principally for the purposes of an armory, an office of ordnance, a mint, a deposit of records and of the regalia, and a state prison. The most conspicuous of its ancient edifices, the White Tower, was built so long since as the year 1078; and, from its name of Cæsar's Tower, it has been conjectured that there was previously on the spot a mint and treasury of the Romans, in the time of the later emperors. The tower wharf is furnished with a very crowded row of cannon, used on rejoicing days. The open space on the city side, called Tower-hill, is famous as the place of state executions of persons of rank; but it is happily a long time since it was witness to a scene of this kind. A very beautiful building is just erected on it, for a purpose connected with the port of London, and, indeed, with the navigation of the whole kingdom; the Trinity-house, belonging to a fraternity whose mother-seat is at Deptford. This corporation is invested with large powers of controul and inspection over the pilotage of the Thames and other places, and the establishment of light-houses and sea-marks on all the coasts of the island, as well as various other matters of regulation respecting seamen.

Below



VIEW of the TOWER.

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Below the Tower, a line of building commences, occupied almost entirely by trades and employments connected with the shipping; which, under the names of Wapping, Shadwell, Ratcliffe, and Limehouse, extends along the river to the peninsula called the isle of Dogs; and across the neck of the isle, a continuity of buildings runs by the hamlet of Poplar to Blackwall, near which the river Lea, entering the Thames forms the separation between Middlesex and Essex. From this river near Bow a cut is drawn, which terminating in the Thames at Limehouse, makes a nearer and better communication for the purposes of water-carriage than the old channel.

The opposite shore from London-bridge downwards is occupied nearly in the same manner, by close and narrow streets of warehouses, workshops, and habitations of people engaged in naval and commercial business. After Southwark, the parish of Horsleydown succeeds, terminating in Rotherhithe (pronounced *Redriff*), in which are eleven dock yards, some of them employed in building East Indiamen and other ships of large size. Objects of splendour or beauty are not to be expected in a tract so entirely devoted to use, and in which private property is capable of being applied to such lucrative purposes. The grandeur of the scene consists in the river itself, flowing through tiers of ships stretching beyond the reach of the eye, and all alive with the bustle of commerce and navigation. This can be enjoyed only by the spectator who passes through the midst of it in a boat. The banks are so encumbered as to afford not one commodious walk for a view.

From the end of Limehouse and Rotherhithe the river makes a sudden turn to the south in its way to bend round that low peninsula, the isle of Dogs. Crossing the limit between Surrey and Kent, it immediately arrives in the latter county at the populous town of Deptford, so famous for its royal dock and arsenals. It first supplies, however, a large private basin, called Greenland-dock, as being principally occupied by ships engaged in the Greenland fishery, and surrounded by buildings for the boiling and preparation of oil, &c. Deptford takes its name from an ancient ford over a rivulet which here flows into the Thames, the *Ravenborne*, rising not far from Bromley in Kent. It is navigable for lighters to the place where it is crossed by the London road to Greenwich. The dock and extensive arsenals and offices for the navy at Deptford would afford copious matter for description to a writer professedly treating on these topics. Some capital ships of war are always building here; but it is particularly noted for its vast accommodations

dations for the victualling service of the navy. It supplies some grand and striking objects to the prospect of the voyager down the river, who is further amused with the view of various ships of war of the smaller size, and royal yachts, which usually line the shore opposite this place. Deptford moreover possesses several private yards for ship-building, and manufactories of different kinds, which have made it a town of very considerable extent.

A little further, opposite the southern extremity of the isle of Dogs, the town of Greenwich rises from the shore of the Thames, which it decorates with the most magnificent single object presented to the view during its whole course. This is the Royal Hospital for Seamen, an edifice better suited in its style of architecture to the ideas we should form of a regal palace, than to its present humbler but more useful destination. A palace, indeed, once occupied its site, the scene of many splendid festivities in a gay and gallant age, and the birth-place of Henry VIII. Edward VI. Mary, and Elizabeth. After it had fallen to decay, Charles II. resolved to restore it with superior grandeur, and one wing of it was completed for this purpose. William and Mary were the founders of the present institution, and the building was finished by Sir Christopher Wren, who formed the whole plan, except the two pavillions next the water, which were the work of Inigo Jones. Nothing is wanting to its magnificence, except a central part to connect the whole; the elegant house in the park, which occupies that station in the view, being, neither by its position nor style of building, at all adequate to that purpose. The idea of lodging the veterans of the British navy in a palace, may seem worthy of the dignity of the first maritime power in the world; and the whole establishment, by the rank and number of its officers and directors, fills the mind with an appropriate greatness of character: yet it may be questioned whether the real comfort of the persons to whose use it is devoted, might not have been better consulted by a greater attention to convenience and accommodation, and a less regard to splendour. The revenues of the hospital chiefly arise from a monthly stoppage in the wages of *all* seamen, as well in the merchants' as the king's service; together with the income of the Derwentwater estates forfeited in the last rebellion.

The park of Greenwich, though small, is very agreeable, from the disposition of its ground, and affords very striking and extensive prospects of the metropolis, the course of the Thames, and a large tract of adjacent country. It is graced and honoured by the chief astronomical institution in the kingdom, the Royal Observatory,

vatory, seated on its principal eminence, and the successive residence of men of the highest name in science. The first meridian is by English geographers made to pass through it.

Winding round the eastern side of the isle of Dogs, the Thames next reaches Blackwall, a collection of houses for the accommodation of seafaring people and ship-builders. Some East India ships usually lie at moorings before this place, and new ones are continually building in its docks. Here is one of those great private works which are only to be seen in a country of commercial prosperity and security like Great Britain. Mr. Perry, an eminent ship-builder, has, at his sole expence, formed a noble wet dock or basin communicating with the Thames, capable of receiving a number of the largest ships, and planned with every possible attention to convenience, and even elegance. An extraordinary piece of mechanism, for heaving masts and fixing them in vessels, forms a very conspicuous object from its height and bulk. His dry docks, building yards, store houses, &c. are all in a proportionate scale of magnitude. Just below this dock, the *Lea* enters the Thames; a river, which, rising in Bedfordshire, and crossing Hertfordshire, becomes navigable from Hertford, and is highly useful in conveying the commodities of the county through which it flows, to the metropolis, and making returns of coals, manure, and other necessary articles. The *Stort*, which joins it near Hoddesdon, prolongs the water-communication as far as Bishops-Stortford.

From the mouth of the *Lea*, a reach of the river extends, offering, on the Kentish side, the pleasing view of the heights and sloping woods of Charlton, and terminating with the town of Woolwich. The Essex shore, here, and for many miles further, presents nothing but a level of marshes. Woolwich is a place of considerable note and consequence, as containing the most ancient of the royal docks and arsenals. The dock is at present exceeded by others in business; but as a magazine for ordnance and military stores, Woolwich surpasses any other place in the kingdom. Its park, warren, and laboratory, afford a prodigious display of destructive machinery, and continually resound with the “dreadful note of preparation.” Cannon are cast, bored, and proved here, bombs charged, and cartridges made. It is likewise the well-adapted seat of a royal military academy, in which young gentlemen are taught the sciences of fortification and engineering, and other branches of the profession of a soldier. There are extensive barracks on the hill above Woolwich, in which a number of troops are always stationed.

Before the town, some of the hulks, those watery receptacles of petty criminals, are generally lying, and their occupiers are employed in labour about the dock and warren, or in heaving ballast for shipping.

Behind Woolwich, at the distance of two miles from the river, is Shooter's-hill, a place worth mentioning in connection with the Thames, on account of the noble prospect it affords over all the scenery we have been describing, and much of the remainder of our course. London and its vicinity, the plains and woods of Essex, Greenwich, Woolwich, and the adjacent country, and the majestic windings and long reaches of the Thames, now bearing on its bosom the freight of navies, all lie in full view beneath it. On the other side, the varied and richly-wooded county of Kent extends to the utmost stretch of vision. If Richmond-hill can boast of softer and more delicious charms, Shooter's-hill may claim a fair precedence for variety and grandeur.

At a small distance below Woolwich, *Barking-creek* enters the Thames, navigable for small vessels to the town of that name. Into this flows the *Roding*, a rivulet rising near Dunmow in Essex, and passing by Ongar through the south-eastern part of the county. *Dagenham-creek*, going up to Rumford, next joins the Thames. Near its influx, the river, in the year 1707, urged by a strong tide, made a breach in the embankment which borders it, which overflowed a thousand acres of rich marsh-land, and was not closed without vast difficulty and expence. The name of *Dagenham-breach*, and a pool of fifty acres, still distinguish the spot. Other creeks successively join the river from the Essex marshes. The opposite Kentish shore is edged at some distance from the water with woody heights, one of the most conspicuous of which crowns the village of Erith, a small river-haven, at which the homeward-bound East Indiamen frequently stop to be lightened of part of their cargoes. Near Erith is one of the few villas which grace this lower part of the Thames, Belvedere-house, the seat of lord Eardley, the fine prospect from which scarcely compensates its situation so near the unhealthy marshes.

At the next turn of the river commences the very straight channel of Long Reach; near the entrance of which, on the Kentish side, the *Darent* brings in its tributary waters. This river, rising near Westerham, winds through a fine valley decorated with many beautiful seats, and taking its way directly northwards, arrives at the market-town of Dartford, whence in its short course to the Thames it is navigable for small craft, under the name of Dartford-creek. Before its

junction

junction, it receives an addition from the *Cray*, a rivulet that gives its name to several villages in its course, and is crossed by the London road to Canterbury at Crayford.

Opposite, on the Essex side, is Purfleet, a place noted for its large magazine of gunpowder, constructed with admirable strength and contrivance. It has also quarries of chalk, of which great quantities are burned into lime on the spot. A creek, or rivulet, here enters the Thames. Greenhithe, on the Kentish side, at the other extremity of Long Reach, has also a great traffic in the chalk and lime produced from the range of chalk-hills which here border the river, and afford somewhat romantic in the appearance of their broken rocks. A ferry for horses and cattle makes a communication between Kent and Essex at this place. At Ingreffs, in the neighbourhood, is the elegant seat of D. Roebuck, Esq.

The river now makes a bend, called St Clement's Reach, ending at the small market-town of Gray's Thurrock on the Essex bank. Hence, through the South Hope, it arrives at Northfleet, on the Kentish side, a place remarkable for its chalk cliffs, which yield many curious fossils to the naturalist, and afford a singular object from their excavations. One of these has been ingeniously wrought into a dock for ship-building. Chalk and lime are largely exported from these quarries.

The straight reach of Gravesend commences from this point, distinguished by the town of that name on the Kentish shore. Gravesend is a place of note in the Thames navigation, being the first port from the entrance of the river, and that from whence all outward-bound ships take their departure after being visited by the custom-house officers, and where most homeward-bound ones set on shore their captains and passengers. Many vessels are continually at anchor before it, and receive from it supplies of provision, especially fresh vegetables, which are grown in great quantities in the gardens surrounding the town. A horse-ferry here communicates with the Essex shore; on which, directly opposite to Gravesend, is erected Tilbury-fort, a regular fortification furnished with a great number of large cannon, and the chief defence of the channel of the Thames. West Tilbury, in its neighbourhood, was the place of encampment of the principal army of queen Elizabeth at the time of the intended Spanish invasion. A mineral alterative water of some reputation has been discovered at Tilbury.

The river, bordered by a continued tract of marshes, bends northwards round the point of land at East Tilbury, and forms a widened channel called the Hope. A small stream falling in from Stanford-le-Hope, forms *Mucking-creek* on the Essex side; from the mouth of which the Thames holds a direct eastern course to the sea. It first washes and insulates a low marshy tract in Essex, called Canvey island, the strand of which is noted for the cockle shells by which it has been covered from remote times. A branch of the river on the eastern side of this island is called Leigh-road, from the town of that name on its bank, a place much frequented by hoys and small craft. Ships occasionally anchor in this road. Just beyond Leigh is a stone marking the boundary of the jurisdiction of the city of London as conservator of the Thames.

Still keeping along the Essex coast, South-end, lately brought into fashion as a watering place, displays its new buildings. Its situation in a dry and woody country, with the noble prospect it affords of the entrances of the Thames and Medway, will not probably long induce the invalid to seek for a restoration of vigour in the vicinity of some of the most unhealthy tracts in England, especially during the autumnal season of sea bathing. Shoebury Nose or Nefs presently succeeds; the termination of the *mouth of the Thames* on the north side.

The Kentish coast, forming the southern limit of the Thames-mouth, after receding in such a manner as to give a sudden expansion to the channel, terminates with the marshy isle of Grean or Grain, lying between the Thames and Medway, and cut off from the main by a narrow creek joining the two rivers. From the point of this island to that of Shoebury is a distance of six miles, with this breadth the Thames majestically mingles with the sea, which may be said immediately to commence from the floating light upon the Nore, a sand bank lying in mid channel.

The river *Medway*, though it cannot be called a tributary to the Thames, since they do not join their streams till each is lost in a common arm of the sea, yet is so connected with it in respect of navigation, that it deserves some particular notice in the present description. The principal river of Kent, across which county it flows from the borders of Surrey and Suffex, it serves during the greatest part of its course for the conveyance of commodities to and from the parts adjacent to its banks. The county town of Maidstone, and the city of Rochester, are among the places it visits; but its chief importance arises from the commodious station it affords

affords for a considerable portion of the British navy. The largest men of war can proceed up this river as far as Chatham, where in time of peace a number of them are laid up in perfect security. The principal of the royal docks is here situated, and most of the first-rates are built in its yard. The dock ranges along the river bank for near a mile in length; and its naval arsenals, and other edifices for the service, are of capital magnitude, and disposed with admirable order and convenience. They are protected by a strong line of fortifications, in which are included large barracks for the lodgment of the soldiery. It is presumed that there is now little danger of a repetition of the insult which the Dutch offered to our maritime power in the inglorious reign of Charles II. when vice-admiral Van Ghent, sailing up the Medway as far as Chatham, destroyed several large ships. A further defence is afforded by the strong fort of Sheerness, situated on the northerly point of the isle of Shepey, directly opposite the entrance of the Medway from the sea. A dock, dependent on that of Chatham, has been established here. Stangate-creek, a little way within the Medway, is well known as the place where vessels coming from suspected countries perform quarantine. The conservatorial jurisdiction of the city of London extends up the Medway to a small distance from Chatham; a proof that this water was considered as one of the creeks or branches of the Thames. The great utility of a naval station so near the metropolis, and having a ready communication with the docks and arsenals on the Thames, need not be pointed out. The channel separating the isle of Shepey from the main land, called the *Swale*, may also be reckoned one of the communicating branches of the two rivers, since either may be entered from it without going out to sea. In this channel is the small port and borough of Queensborough; Milton, celebrated for its oysters, and Faversham, have also a communication with it by their creeks.

Having thus, with some minuteness, traced the Thames from its source to its entrance into the sea, we shall briefly sum up, as it were, its character among our English rivers.

Holding a course from west to east across that part of the island which approaches to the widest in this direction, it has obtained more room for its developement than any other of our streams, and consequently passes over a greater space between its head and its termination. A straight line drawn on the map from Thames-head to Shoebury-ness measures by the scale between 120 and 130 miles, a very considerable

NAVIGABLE CANALS.

IN the preceding account of the Thames we have cursorily noticed all the canal navigations communicating with it; but we shall now more particularly describe those which have their course through that tract of country which is the subject of this work.

BASINGSTOKE CANAL.—The first of the new communications with the Thames opened by means of canals, was that to Basingstoke in Hampshire. A scheme was proposed so early as 1772 of making a canal from this place, which should join an intended canal from Reading to Monkey-island in the Thames near Maidenhead; but the whole of this plan was defeated by the opposition of the land-owners. At length in 1777, consent was obtained to an act for cutting a canal from Basingstoke to the river Wey, near Weybridge, where it falls into the Thames, which has for some time past been fully completed.

It begins at a place called Newman Springs, near the village of Basing. Thence, making a turn northwards round Tilney-hall, it returns almost to Odiham, and then proceeds eastward by Aldershot to the border of Surrey, where it crosses Dead-brook, which divides the counties. It next passes through the north-eastern corner of Surrey, by Purbright and Horshell, to its termination in the river Wey, about two miles above Weybridge. Its whole length of course is near forty-four miles. One important object of this canal is the carriage of ship-timber from the woods in Hampshire to the public and private dock-yards on the Thames. It may also be expected to aid the agricultural improvement of that very sterile part of Surrey through which it passes, by the conveyance of lime and other manures. A second act was passed relative to this canal, empowering the proprietors to borrow an additional sum of money for its completion.

The canal from Oxford to Coventry, forming a communication between the Thames and the whole system of midland navigation, was noticed when we came to the city of Oxford in pursuing the course of that river. But this union with the Thames at a part so distant from the sea, and often so difficultly accessible by vessels of any burthen, did not satisfy the spirit of commerce; and it was more-



MAP of the CANALS

Published by J. G. Smith, 1825

Scale of British Miles



over desirable to extend the benefits of water communication through other inland parts which were in great want of such an advantage. A plan was therefore formed by the marquis of Buckingham of drawing a line from the Oxford canal to meet the Thames in Middlesex; and in the year 1793, an act of Parliament passed “ For making a Navigable Canal from the Oxford Canal Navigation, at Braunston, in the county of Northampton, to join the river Thames “ at or near Brentford, in the county of Middlesex; and also certain collateral “ cuts from the said intended Canal.”—The name affixed to this navigation was the **GRAND JUNCTION CANAL**. Another act passed in 1795 to enable the proprietors to make a variation in the course, and for some other purposes.

The general course of this canal is from north-west to south-east. Beginning in Northamptonshire, on the border of Warwickshire, not far from Daventry, it passes between Northampton and Towcester to the neighbourhood of Stony Stratford, where it crosses the Ouse and enters Buckinghamshire; then after making a bend towards Newport Pagnel, it proceeds to Fenny Stratford, Leighton Buzzard, Ivinghoe, and entering Hertfordshire, passes close to Berkhamsted. Thence, running parallel to the Bulbourn river, and crossing the Gade, it passes King’s Langley, and cutting through Grove-park and Cashiobury-park (belonging to the earls of Clarendon and Essex) it makes a turn eastward opposite to Watford, and reaches Rickmansworth. Hence it accompanies the river Coln, frequently crossing its branches, to Uxbridge, some distance below which, it turns directly across the western part of Middlesex, and going through Norwood, winds round the northern extremity of Osterley-park, near which it arrives at the banks of the Brent, and closely accompanying the course of its stream, enters the Thames with it between Sion-house and New Brentford.

The extent of this canal is full ninety miles, exclusive of collateral cuts. It passes through two tunnels, in length, together, near three miles. It has 121 locks, dividing between them a rise and fall of 796 feet, of which, 417 feet is the elevation of the Oxford canal at the junction, above the Thames at Brentford. There are collateral cuts to Daventry, one mile and a half; to Northampton, five miles; to Stony Stratford, one mile and a half; and to Watford, two miles. On Aldenham-common, near Elstree, a reservoir is made covering eighty-two acres, three roods, and one pole. With the cock only half turned this lets out one third as much water as runs in the Coln.

The fixed rates of tonnage on this canal are, for lime and lime-stone, one half-penny per ton per mile; for stones, bricks, tiles, slate, &c. iron-stone, pig-iron, and lead, and all manure, (except lime) three farthings ditto; for cattle of all kinds, one penny ditto; for coal and coak, one penny farthing ditto; for all other goods, one penny halfpenny ditto. Coals are forbidden to be conveyed by the canal nearer to London than Grove-park, in Hertfordshire.

This canal is yet in an unfinished state. The navigation is completed from the Thames to within a mile of Rickmansworth; and at the other end, from Blifworth, opposite Towcester, to the Oxford canal. Other intermediate parts are in forwardness; and it is expected that the whole line, with the collateral branches, will be fit for navigation in about three years. That very able gentleman, Mr. Jessop, is the superintending engineer, and Mr. James Barnes the executive one, whose indefatigable exertions in the company's service, and the abilities he has shewn in the execution of the works, justly entitle him to great praise, the parts already completed being superior to any of the like kind.

On tracing the course of this navigation, it will be found to pass through a country chiefly agricultural, but well peopled and opulent. The great articles of carriage may be expected to be, coal brought from the Warwickshire and Staffordshire pits, lime, and manure of other kinds, and building materials. The advantages to be derived from greater plenty of fuel, and cheapness of manure, are almost incalculable to a country hitherto so much out of the course of the ready conveyance of these commodities, so essential to all improvements. Its interference with the Oxford canal is compensated by certain agreements between the two companies, by which considerable rates are to be paid for goods passing from the Oxford to the Junction canal. The metropolis cannot but be benefited by such an addition to its communication with the heart of the kingdom.

The proprietors of the Grand Junction Canal have erected a capital warehouse with a wet dock communicating with the Thames, between Blackfriars-bridge and the Temple, for the accommodation of all vessels navigating on their canals, and those connected with them, to London. This dock is ninety feet in length, and sixteen in width; and the building above is 132 feet long, and forty-five wide, with three floors. One vessel at a time lying under the building within cover may be loaded and unloaded very speedily by means of machinery; while goods may be loading and unloading by cranes from different parts of the building without

without interfering with this. The whole is one of the completest plans of a warehouse and docks on a small scale, as yet established on the Thames. We have already noticed it as an object on the river at page 43.

It is computed that the whole expence of the Grand Junction canal, with all its cuts and collateral branches, will amount to 800,000*l*.

BUCKINGHAM, AYLESBURY, and WENDOVER, CANALS.—In the ensuing session of Parliament, 1794, an act passed for making navigable cuts to the Grand Junction canal from the towns of Buckingham, Aylesbury, and Wendover. That of *Buckingham* is to join the collateral cut made from the Junction canal to Old Stratford, at that place. Its length, somewhat more than nine miles, with seven locks, and a rise of forty-two feet. That of *Aylesbury* is to join the Junction canal in the parish of Marsworth, Buckinghamshire. Its length, somewhat less than seven miles, with eleven locks, and eighty feet fall. That of *Wendover* is to make navigable the cut or feeder before allowed to be made from Wendover to the summit level of the Junction canal at Bulbourne in the parish of Tring. These communications will tend very much to the advantage of those parts of the country through which they pass, which abound with corn and provisions, from which the London market derive great supplies, and where fuel is scarce, and at all times immoderately dear.

ST. ALBAN'S CANAL.—In 1795 an act passed for making a navigable canal from the collateral cut of the Junction canal at Watford, to the town of St. Alban's. The distance is eight miles and three quarters, in which space there are to be eleven locks, with seventy-five feet rise. No tract on the course of the canals within the limits of our survey, perhaps, more than this stands in need of the benefit of water-carriage with respect to the necessary article of coal, which is at present supplied to St. Alban's only by land from London, at an expence which makes an enormous addition to the high price paid for it at the market of the capital. Little progress has as yet been made in the execution of this useful design.

PADDINGTON CANAL.—The same year, 1795, produced another act for the extension of the communications of the Grand Junction canal, remarkable as being the first scheme for a canal navigation to be brought directly to the suburbs of the metropolis. From the Junction canal at Bull-bridge-brook, near Cranford-park, in the precinct of Norwood in Middlesex, it is to pass through Northolt, Greenford, and Perivale, to Apperton in Harrow parish, thence across the Brent to Twyford,

and proceeding in a pretty straight line, to terminate at Paddington by the side of the Edgware road, nearly opposite to the part where the City road falls into it. The length of this branch will be thirteen miles and a quarter, all on the level; which will be a great advantage to the navigation in point of speed and pleasure. Besides the common objects of water-carriage, it cannot be doubted that the conveyance of passengers will prove a very material article in the business of this canal; and it is difficult to form any estimate of the numerous parties of pleasure which the novelty of passage-boats gliding across the fields of a beautiful country will attract from the crowded metropolis on the leisure days of summer.

The tract of this canal is now marking out by the surveyors, and it will be completed with as much expedition as the nature of the undertaking will admit. The village of Paddington and its neighbourhood will probably in a few years experience a great augmentation, in consequence of an act obtained in 1795, by the bishop of London, lord of the manor, enabling him to grant leases of the lands belonging to that fee, with powers of renewal on fixed terms, so that the purchasers will possess most of the advantages of freehold. A wharf and warehouses are to be erected for the canal company, and a market place for the accommodation of the inhabitants.

An idea has been entertained, which we hope will be put in execution, of continuing the Paddington canal round the northern skirts of London into the Thames, one side or other of the isle of Dogs. This would prove extremely beneficial, particularly in the carriage of heavy articles, such as coal, stone, lime, and timber, which are now conveyed at a great expence by horses to those parts of the town where new buildings are chiefly carrying on. It would likewise afford a cheap and safe conveyance of passengers to and from the eastern and western sides of the metropolis.

N E W R I V E R.

TO the preceding account of *navigable* canals, it may not be unacceptable if we subjoin a more particular description than we have yet given of a canal or aqueduct for the *supply of water* to the metropolis—deserving notice, as well for its magnitude and contrivance, as its utility.

Though the water of the Thames is for many purposes highly beneficial to London, yet its purity is liable to so many alterations, that a copious supply of unpolluted element is an extremely desirous addition. Further, the Thames water must be forced to ascend by machines before it can be distributed even to the lower parts of the town; whereas a stream brought from the country to the northern side of London may by its own gravity be made to flow in a natural descent to any quarter of the widely-extended metropolis. From these considerations, a spirited individual in the reign of James I., Sir Hugh Middleton, citizen and goldsmith, a native of Denbighshire, proposed the scheme of bringing a source of water out of Hertfordshire in an artificial channel to London. Various difficulties arising to check the spirit of adventure in others, he at length, in the year 1608, commenced the undertaking at his own expence; and after exhausting all his resources, and being refused aid from the corporation of London, he was enabled, by the assistance of King James, to bring it to completion. On September 29, 1613, the water was let into the New River-head at Islington; but the projector was ruined by his success, and it was long before the scheme was rendered useful to the public, and beneficial to the proprietors.

The source of the New River is at Amwell, close by Ware, in Hertfordshire, about twenty miles from London, on the Hertford road. A number of springs are here collected in a large, open basin of considerable depth. At its side is placed a large stone with the following inscription: On the north side, “Opened “ in 1608;” on the south, “Conveyed 40 miles;” on the east, “Chadwell “ spring;” on the west, “Repaired 1728.”—The original supply of water having been found inadequate to the consumption, the mill stream of the river Lea, which runs near it, was resorted to; and after various disputes and litigations between its proprietors and those of the New River; the mill has, at length, become the property of the latter company, who have now an unrestricted use of
the

the water ; so that the Lea may be reckoned one of its sources. On a sluice leading from it are flood-gates, with a building adjoining, in which a man is placed, whose constant employ is to raise or lower them according to the fullness of the river below ; and that he may not err in the quantity supplied, a gauge is fixed across the sluice, consisting of a stone of great bulk and weight, pallisaded round, and from the road appearing like a tomb, under which all the water passes ; so that by this simple contrivance it is perfectly easy to regulate the current with the greatest exactness. In order to preserve a level, the New River takes such a winding course, that the length of its channel is very near thirty-nine miles. Its general direction is parallel to the Lea, at the distance of a mile or two from it, on higher ground. It passes Hoddesdon and Cheshunt, and enters Middlesex near Waltham-crofs. Making a great bend towards Enfield-chace, it returns to the town of Enfield ; and at Bush-hill, south of that place, it was formerly carried across a valley in a wooden aqueduct, or open trough, 660 feet in length, supported by arches ; but the modern improvements in canal-making have suggested a better mode of effecting the same purpose by means of a raised mound of earth, over which the river passes in a new channel, which was completed in the year 1785. From this place the river proceeds, with two very devious bends and returns, to Hornsey ; between which village and Highbury it was formerly conveyed across a valley in another wooden aqueduct, 178 yards in length ; now, like the other, exchanged for a raised bank of clay. Still winding among the gentle elevations of this pleasant tract, it comes to the upper end of Stoke Newington, and thence passes onward beneath Highbury to the east side of Islington, where it dips under the road in a subterranean channel of 200 yards. Just before this part is a brick building, whence are sent several mains for the supply of the eastern side of London ; and a little above is a very ancient spring, eight feet in depth, arched over, and running into the river. This is much used by the inhabitants of Islington. After passing the road, the New River rises again, and coasts the southern side of that town till it reaches its termination at New River-head, near Sadler's-wells. The width of the river under the bridges in the neighbourhood of Islington is fourteen feet and a half ; and the average depth is four feet six inches ; but the depth decreases on ascending towards the source. The number of bridges which cross the river in its whole course is about 200 ; and in various places there are sluices to let off the waste water, and other works, which might excite admiration in the earlier stage of this branch of mechanics, though now they appear

inconsiderable in comparison with the wonders of canal navigation. The most truly admirable are the contrivances for the distribution of the water through the several parts of London. From a circular basin, now thrice its original size, which first receives it, the water is conveyed by sluices into several large brick cisterns; whence it passes through large wooden pipes of six or seven inches diameter called mains and riders, to the various districts of the capital, into the houses of which it is carried by means of leaden pipes. At the New River-head is a building containing two steam engines and one water engine, for the purpose of forcing up a part of the water to a higher reservoir near Pentonville, in order for its more easy distribution into the western parts of the town, which are too nearly on the level of the basin at the head. Near this reservoir, in a field, a conspicuous object appears, the use of which is little known. It is an iron pipe, twelve feet in height, (including a wooden tub placed on its top) and four feet eight inches in circumference, erected about four years ago on a great main of pipes of the same dimensions. It acts in the double capacity of an air and a waste water pipe, and is very useful in preventing that bursting of the pipes from the force of water or compressed air, which was formerly so frequent. Just below, in the same field, is another reservoir, supplied by one main from the New River-head, and serving the pipes in Pentonville and its vicinity. A new one communicating with that at Pentonville is now constructing by the side of Tottenham-court-road. It is on the same level with the other, and is intended particularly for the supply of the new buildings in Marybone parish and its vicinity. The mains from it are iron pipes of 4 feet 8 inches circumference, and 19 inches bore.

The property of this concern was originally divided into seventy-two shares, of which thirty-six were vested in Sir Hugh Middleton, who was obliged to part with them to various persons. These are termed the Adventurers' Shares. The other thirty-six were vested in the crown, a moiety of the undertaking having been made over to King James for the money advanced by him. They were alienated by Charles I., and are called King's Shares; but as the crown never had any concern in the management, its representatives are likewise excluded from the direction. These shares are also subject to a grant of 500*l.* per annum, whence they are of less value than the others. The original value of the seventy-two shares was 100*l.* each; but so discouraging were the first prospects, and so much did the expences exceed the income, that they fell to a very small price, and their product

was

was long under 5*l.* per annum. At present they are near one hundred times their first value—a rise in property scarcely to be paralleled, and sufficiently demonstrative of the amazing increase of building and opulence in the capital! The management of the company's affairs is vested by charter in twenty-nine holders of adventurers' shares, who form a board. The officers are a governor, deputy-governor, treasurer, and clerk. There is a handsome house at the river-head occupied by the surveyor to the company. Few public companies in the metropolis surpass this in the value of property and extent of concerns. The constant repairs and improvements going on keep a vast number of men and horses in employ; and the whole system of the distribution of the water is of so complicated a nature as to require the greatest skill and attention on the part of the surveyor and other officers. The company has an office and commodious wharf a little above Blackfriars-bridge.

The water of the New River is soft, and for the most part sufficiently pure, though liable to become turbid after heavy rains. In summer it undergoes a kind of pollution from the multitude of bathers who frequent that part of it which lies between Islington and Newington; but this injury, which is more in fancy than in reality, is compensated as to public benefit by the advantages to health and cleanliness, derived from that application of the water. Decency, however, would require that the bathers should with more strictness be confined to retired places.

It is to be lamented that the number of persons drowned in the part of the river near London is very considerable. These are for the most part suicides; as, indeed, the depth of the stream is not in general such as to be hazardous to any but children in the way of accident. The Thames, in its whole course through the metropolis, is said not to occasion such a loss of lives, notwithstanding the multiplicity of accidents to which the crowd of people continually employed upon it are liable. But persons falling into the Thames are usually taken out by the activity of the by-standers, and recovered; whereas the sequestered situations in the New River prevent such aid, and invite the attempts of the unfortunate.

The New River is a considerable ornament to many of the seats and pleasure grounds which it visits in its course; though it has too much canal-like regularity to be truly picturesque. It is likewise of great utility by affording a supply of water for cattle and other purposes. It contains a quantity of fish of various kinds, though the number of anglers and poachers prevents them in general from arriving at mature size.

M I D D L E S E X.

O S S U L S T O N H U N D R E D.

C H E L S E A.

THIS village, immediately contiguous to the western side of the metropolis, and bounded on the south by the Thames, affords a variety of curious and interesting objects. We shall first give an account of the establishment for which it is principally noted, its *College, or Royal Hospital for maimed and superannuated soldiers*.

The original purpose of this foundation, and that from which it derived its first title, was very different from its present destination. In the reign of king James I. Dr. Sutcliffe, dean of Exeter, formed the plan of a college of polemical divines, by way of a standing body of defenders of the orthodox faith, against the attacks of papists and sectaries. This design was well adapted to the theological zeal of the king and the times; and, accordingly, James consented to appear as its founder, and calling it after his own name, endowed it with lands at Chelsea, bestowed timber for the building out of the royal forests at Windsor, and recommended it to the encouragement of his subjects. He also procured an act of parliament to enable the college to raise a rent from water-works on the river Lea for the supply of London. A charter for the institution, granted in 1610, mentions it to consist of a provost and twenty fellows, eighteen of whom were to be in orders. Sutcliffe was the first provost; and he began, at his own expense, to erect the college, and at his death bequeathed considerable property to the carrying on of the design. It however met with a variety of obstacles, and was soon, even in the succeeding reign, perverted from its proper use. In the ensuing troublesome times it was seized by the parliament, and put to various purposes, particularly that of a military prison.

After the restoration, the college and its property having fallen into the hands of the crown, were, in 1669, granted to the newly-incorporated Royal Society, which sold them in 1682 back to the king; and then immediately commenced the present institution. In that year, Charles II. laid the first stone of a new edifice, of which

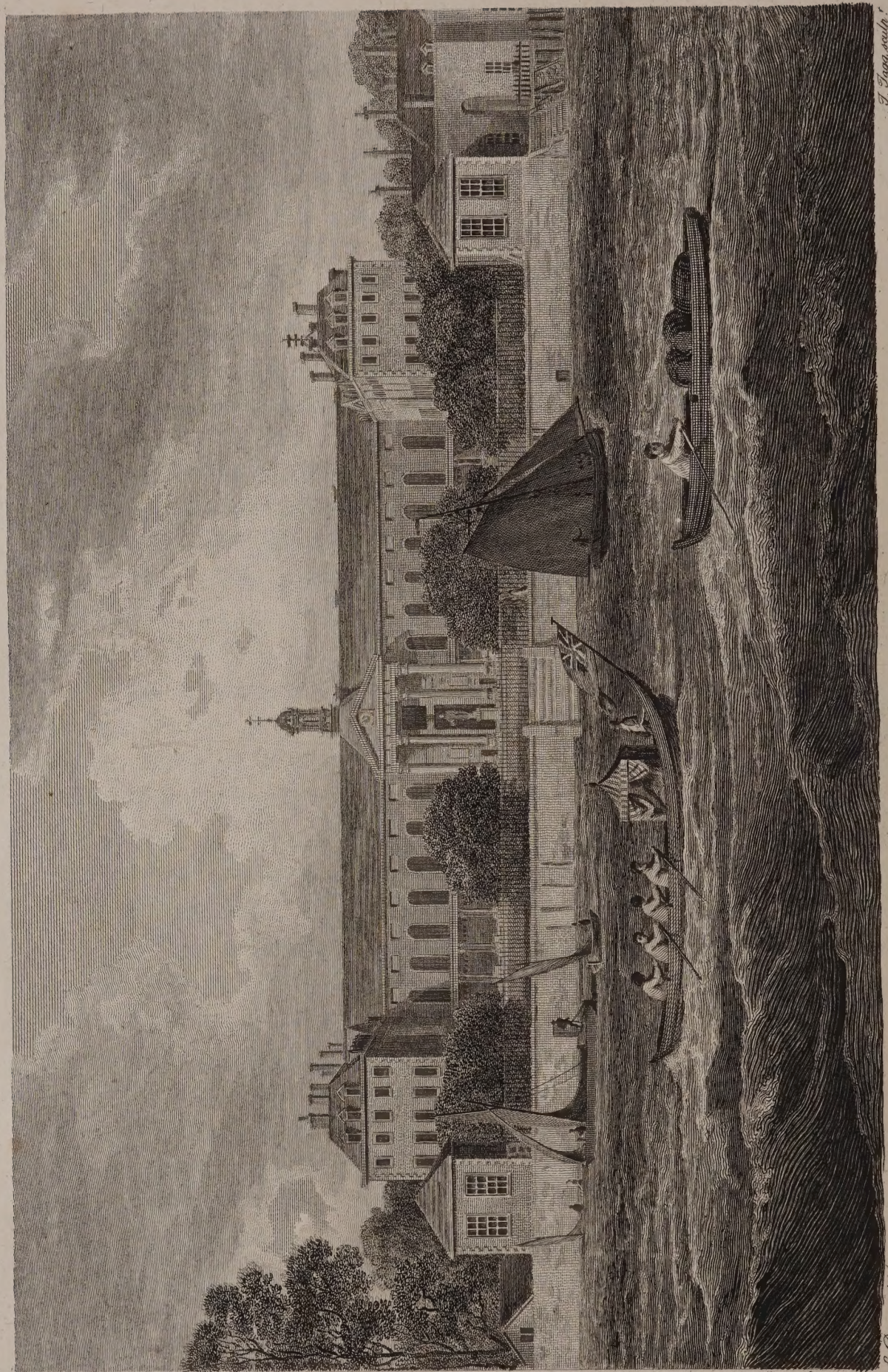
Sir Christopher Wren was the architect. It was completed in 1690 at the expense of 150,000*l.* partly raised by private donations. Sir Stephen Fox, supposed to have been the author of the project, was a large contributor. Its history and purpose are with elegant brevity recorded in the following inscription over the piazza on its south front.

IN SUBSIDIUM ET LEVAMEN EMERITORUM, SENIO BELLOQUE FRAC-
TUM, CONDIDIT CAROLUS SECUNDUS, AUXIT JACOBUS SECUNDUS, PER-
FECERE GULIELMUS ET MARIA, REX ET REGINA, 1690.

For the maintenance and relief of superannuated and disabled soldiers, founded by Charles II., enlarged by James II., and completed by William and Mary in 1690.

The modest and simple architecture of this building does not prevent a considerable air of grandeur resulting from its great compass, and the regularity of its plan. The material is red brick, varied with freestone in the coins, cornices, pediments, and columns. The front extends the vast length of 790 feet. In its centre is a pediment of freestone, supported by massy pillars of the Doric order, reaching to the roof. Behind it is an ample vestibule terminating in a dome or lantern. On the two sides, the front is occupied by a chapel and a hall; and beyond them are lower buildings, chiefly composing apartments for the officers of the hospital. On the back part, the principal building forms a quadrangle, open on the south to gardens bounded by the Thames. A statue of Charles II. is placed in the centre. The east and west sides, each 365 feet in length, are the wards for the pensioners. On the centre of each are a stone pediment and columns like those of the front. The governor's house is at the extremity of the east side. It is provided with a very handsome state-room, decorated with some regal portraits. Other courts are appropriated to various offices for the service of the institution; as infirmaries, baths, laundries, &c.; and the whole is kept perfectly neat, and in excellent order. A piece of ground to the front, of thirteen acres, enclosed with a wall, is planted with avenues of limes and horse-chestnuts, forming broad and commodious walks. The gardens towards the river are extensive; and every thing suitable for the comfort and recreation of the veteran inhabitants, and the dignity of a great national establishment, is liberally supplied. There are, belonging to the hospital, a governor, lieutenant-governor, major, two chaplains, an organist, a physician, surgeon, and apothecary, a secretary, steward, treasurer, comptroller, and various subordi-

nate



J. Jagg, sculp.

VIEW OF CHELSEA HOSPITAL.

Pub. Feb. 10. 1797. by L. Stockdale, F. and G. S.

C. Dwyer del.

nate officers. The number of ordinary resident pensioners will probably appear small in proportion, being only 336. They have an uniform, red lined with blue, and are provided with lodging and diet, besides eight-pence per week in money. They mount guard, and perform other duties of a garrison. A body of thirty-four, called light-horse men, chosen out of the regiments of cavalry, have an allowance of two shillings per week. The servants, nurses, &c. make the whole inhabitants of the hospital amount to about 550. Of out-pensioners there are, 400 serjeants, called the king's letter-men, who have one shilling per day each; and an unlimited number of privates, who have five-pence a day, and now amount to upwards of 21,000 men, dispersed over the three kingdoms. These are liable to be called upon to act as invalids in time of war. For the maintenance of this grand institution an annual sum is voted by parliament, in addition to 7000*l.* arising from the poundage of the household troops. The burial-ground belonging to the hospital contains the tombs of several persons of note connected with it, and records some extraordinary instances of longevity in the pensioners.

The annexed view of Chelsea-hospital was taken from the south side of the Thames. Between the front railing and the building is an extensive garden, with canals from the river, well stocked with fish. On the right side of the print, between the chimneys, is the Telegraph, forming the first communication in the Portsmouth line from the Admiralty to Wimbledon-common.

Adjacent to the Thames, at a small distance from the college, is another public institution; the *Botanical, or Physic Garden*, belonging to the company of Apothecaries in London. The ground was taken by the company in 1673; and the freehold of the premises was afterwards bestowed upon them by Sir Hans Sloane, on the condition of their annually presenting specimens of fifty new plants to the Royal Society. This munificent patron of science likewise contributed largely to the buildings and improvements of the garden: on which account his statue, by Ryssbrack, is properly made one of its decorations, as a testimony of gratitude. A spacious green-house, with a library over it, occupies a great part of one side of the garden. The collection of curious and useful plants is a very respectable one. Two large cedars of Lebanon, planted in the year 1683, form singular and conspicuous objects on the water-side. A botanical demonstrator is appointed by the company to give instructions upon the spot to apprentices, relative to the nature and uses of the plants cultivated there.

Ranelagh, a celebrated place of amusement, is also adjacent to Chelsea College. This was formerly part of the estate of Richard earl of Ranelagh, who at the latter end of the last, and the beginning of the present century, possessed a fine house and gardens on the spot. On the sale of his property in 1730, the greater part of these premises was converted into a place of public entertainment; and in 1741 the singular edifice called the Rotunda was erected. This is a vast circular room of 185 feet diameter, furnished with an external range of boxes for tea-drinking, which leaves an interior circle of 150 feet diameter, round and round which the company walk. The roof is supported by beams meeting in the centre and sustained by a column from the floor, at the bottom of which is a chimney with four faces. The inside of the rotunda, when completely illuminated and filled with a well-dressed company, forms a spectacle equally brilliant and uncommon; and notwithstanding a degree of languor in the nature of the amusement, it continues to be a fashionable place of resort. A concert begins the entertainment of the evening, which is concluded about twelve o'clock; and from that time to three are the favourite hours for the best company. Fireworks are occasionally exhibited in the gardens.

To proceed with the subject of places of entertainment—the well-known coffee-house called Don Saltero's may be mentioned, named from its proprietor a century ago, one Salter, who furnished it with a number of articles of natural history, antiquities, and curiosities of various kinds, which rendered it famous at that day, and the relics of which still amuse the company who resort to it. Its situation in Cheyne's Walk, facing the river, and bordered by a fine row of trees, is very pleasant. Nor shall we disdain to notice the Chelsea bun-house, which has been celebrated for the manufacture of that humble luxury for above a century.

A fabric of porcelain at Chelsea once acquired great celebrity, but no longer exists. In the same premises is now a manufactory of stained paper, stamped after a peculiar manner, which employs about 100 hands. And at Whiteland's house in this parish, is another manufactory of painted silk, linen, leather, cloth, and paper, for the hanging rooms, very beautifully executed, partly by stamping, and partly by the hand, in which about an equal number are employed. Messrs. Eckhardts, natives of Holland, are the conductors of it. Chelsea also possesses manufactures of artificial stone, of fire-proof earthen stoves, and of filtering stones. Its water-works have already been mentioned in the account of the Thames.

The parish church is an irregular structure, mostly of brick, built at different periods. It contains various monuments of persons of rank and eminence. One of the chapels was erected by the truly illustrious Sir Thomas More, who had a house at Chelsea, where he resided many years. Among the more remarkable monuments are, one of Jane, dutchess of Northumberland, wife to John Dudley, duke of Northumberland, beheaded in queen Mary's reign; of Sir Robert Stanley, second son of William, earl of Derby; of lord and lady Dacre; of the family of Lawrence; and of lady Jane Cheyne, the work of Bernini. In the church-yard is a striking monument of Sir Hans Sloane, Bart. M. D. the celebrated founder of the British Museum, who died possessed of the manor of Chelsea, which through him is now inherited by lord Cadogan. The parish has also a cemetery at some distance from the church, by the king's road, given by Sir Hans Sloane. It has two chapels of ease; Park-chapel near the church, and a new one near Bloody-bridge. The Moravians had a seminary, and still have a chapel at Chelsea, at which Sunday service is performed. It has a neat burial-ground.

George Aufrere, Esq. who inhabits a house once in the possession of Sir Robert Walpole, has a very fine collection of pictures, chiefly by Italian masters; and in his garden is a famous statue of Neptune, by Bernini, lately belonging to Sir Joshua Reynolds. Lord Cremorne's villa also contains many good pictures, both Italian and Flemish; and a beautiful window of stained glass consisting of many small pieces, by Jarvis.

Near the entrance of the cut which supplied the Chelsea water-works, on the river side, was lately erected, at a great expense, a vast pile of buildings for a distillery; but from various misfortunes, and too extensive a plan for any moderate capital, it has remained hitherto unfinished and unoccupied.

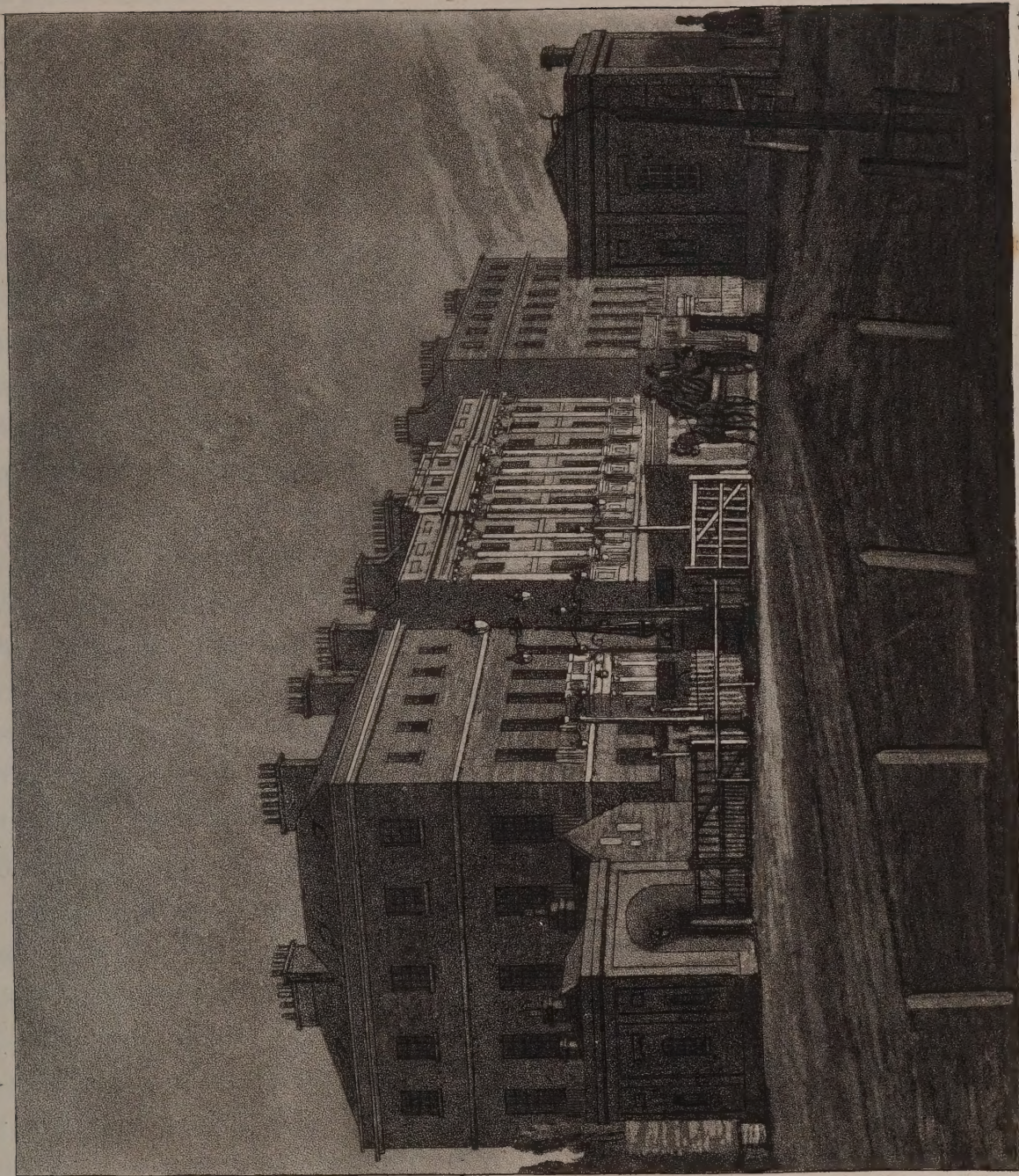
The increase of buildings in this parish of late years has been prodigious, so that there is now scarcely any interval between the village of Chelsea and Westminster. Belgrave-place, a new row of buildings, forms its connexion with Pimlico and Lower Grosvenor-place. A very long and handsome street called Sloane-street, terminating in a square, has also been opened from Chelsea to Knightsbridge, a considerable part of which hamlet is in this parish. Another square, called Hans-place, and some intermediate streets, are connected with Sloane-street, all together composing a district named Hans-town. The present number of inhabited houses in the parish is between 1200 and 1300. A great part of the land in Chelsea
parish

parish is occupied by market gardeners, and some corn is grown in it alternately with other crops.

KENSINGTON.

THIS village, situated on the great western road, about a mile and a half from Hyde-park Corner, is principally known as the seat of a *royal palace*. This edifice, formerly the house of Sir Heneage Finch, afterwards earl of Nottingham and lord chancellor, was sold by his son to king William, who, with his consort, resided much at it; in which he was followed by the succeeding sovereigns to the end of the last reign. William and his queen, Anne, her consort George prince of Denmark, and George II. all ended their lives in this palace. The present royal family have entirely deserted it, and most of the apartments are now occupied by private persons, to whom permission has been granted for that purpose. There is nothing very striking either in the situation, or the building. The latter is a large irregular pile of bricks, raised at different times. A suite of twelve rooms constitutes the state apartments. The great staircase and ceilings were painted by Kent. A good collection of pictures by old masters is found here, and particularly many valuable portraits of persons recorded in English history. The gardens have been successively enlarged, but principally by queen Caroline, who took for that purpose 300 acres out of the adjacent Hyde-park; and their circumference is now three miles and a half. They are shaded by a great number of fine trees. The broad walk, extending along the south side from the palace, is a very fashionable promenade in the spring, especially on Sundays. Tickell has made Kensington-gardens the scene of an elegant poetical tale, the beginning of which agreeably describes the situation of the palace, and the display afforded by a public walk:

Where Kensington, high o'er the neighbouring lands,
'Midst greens and sweets, a regal fabric! stands,
And sees each spring luxuriant in her bow'rs,
A snow of blossoms, and a wild of flow'rs,
The dames of Britain oft in crowds repair
To gravel walks and unpolluted air:
Here, while the town in damps and darkness lies,
They breathe in sunshine, and see azure skies;
Each walk with robes of various dyes bespread
Seems from afar a moving tulip-bed,
Where rich brocades and glossy damasks glow,
And chints, the rival of the show'ry bow.



Hall, sculp.

Dayes del.

VIEW OF HYDE PARK CORNER.

Pub. 4 August 1810 by John Stockdale Broadly

The front of the palace is decorated by a fine piece of water, well stocked with fish. At the bottom of the gardens is another, distinguished by the name of the Serpentine River. This it derives from its feeder, which is however no more than a serpentine ditch, which rising at West End near Hampstead, crosses the Edgware road at Kilbourn, and continues its winding course through rich meadows to Baywater, and thence, under the Uxbridge road, to Kensington-gardens. The nature of the soil through which it runs gives it a muddy appearance; and as its water is only the draining of the meadows, it affords no supply in the summer months.

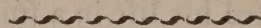
A mansion in Kensington parish which forms a conspicuous object to the traveller, is *Holland-house*, so named from Henry Rich, earl of Holland, by whose father-in-law, Sir Walter Cope, it was erected in the year 1607. Its ample front, distinguished by the complex and fantastic architecture of that period, strikes the modern spectator with its picturesque singularity. The inside has some fine decorations in the same style, still preserved in their original state. This house was a scene of various politics during the civil war, under its wavering owner, the earl of Holland, who at length forfeited his life in a spirited attempt to restore that royalty which, by part of his public conduct, he had contributed to abolish. A much more dignified character afterwards possessed this mansion—Mr. Addison, who married its heiress, the countess dowager of Warwick and Holland. Here that excellent man died in 1719. Holland-house latterly came into the possession of the Fox family, whose title is derived from it. It is now owned and inhabited by the present lord Holland. A gallery of great length occupying the west wing is furnished with portraits of the Lenox, Digby, and Fox families.

Campden-house, situated near the former, is a mansion of nearly the same date, and built in a similar style, though of inferior size and grandeur. It was erected by Sir Baptist Hickes, created viscount Campden in 1628, and from him came into the Noel family. It was for some time the residence of queen Anne, then princess of Denmark, with her son, the young duke of Gloucester. Nicholas Lechmere, a celebrated lawyer, ennobled in 1721, lived in it, and transmitted it to the Lechmeres of Worcesterhire. It is now the property of Stephen Pitt, Esq. a minor; but is occupied as a boarding-school for young ladies. Its garden is distinguished by a caper-tree, which has borne the winters of this climate near a century.

The parish church of Kensington is a brick structure, erected and repaired at various

various periods, with a more ancient tower steeple. It contains monuments and memorials of the Warwick and Holland family, and of various other persons of different ranks. One of the vicars of Kensington, whose tomb is in the churchyard, was that eminent literary character and liberal divine, Dr. John Jortin. There is a private chapel in the hamlet of Brompton in this parish; and a meeting-house for dissenters of the presbyterian class. The population of the parish has rapidly increased within the present century, especially of late years, during which a great accession of buildings has taken place, particularly in Brompton. Others almost join the village of Kensington with Hammer-smith. There are now about 1200 inhabited houses in the parish.

Kensington Gravel-pits, on the north side of the parish, has been a noted resort of invalids, especially those labouring under consumptive complaints, on account of the supposed purity of its air. The parish is variously cultivated in pasture, meadow, and arable. A considerable portion of it is occupied by market-gardens and nursery-grounds.



PADDINGTON.

THIS is one of the villages in the vicinity of the metropolis, now almost annexed to it by contiguity of buildings. It is situated on the Edgware road, less than a mile north of Tybourn-turnpike. New buildings, preceded by new garden-grounds, are fast extending along the Kilbourn road. The parish, mostly consisting of meadow and pasture land, extends near two miles from Tybourn to Kilbourn turnpikes.

The objects of curiosity in Paddington are few. Some of its principal buildings surround a green, which has a pleasant rural air. Here is a handsome brick edifice called *Paddington-house*, erected by Mr. Dennis Chirac, jeweller to queen Anne. A capital mansion called *Westbourne-place*, built and owned by the architect Isaac Ware, is within this parish, in a remarkably pleasant and retired situation. It is now the property of Jukes Coulson, Esq. *Baywater* tea-gardens, a place of entertainment much frequented, were formerly occupied by the noted Sir John Hill, who cultivated and prepared his innocent vegetable medicines in this place. At Baywater is an ancient conduit (forming the subject of a plate for this work). It is situated a little distance north of the Uxbridge road, nearly hidden from view by houses



• Dayes del.

Sparrow sculp.

VIEW of the CONDUIT at BAYS-WATER.

Published Oct. 5. 1796. by J. Stockdale Piccadilly.

houses and trees. It is built of stone, and roofed with the same material, and has a door of plated iron. An inscription above the door mentions that it was repaired in 1635. It is rendered a pleasing object, from the antiquity of its appearance, and from a constant stream of crystal water proceeding from it, as represented in the print. This is the overplus water; which, with two other springs near it, forms nearly the whole of the supply of the Serpentine River in Kensington-gardens in dry seasons. Except these springs, scarcely any water is met with but at very great depths for several miles to the northward. The conduit at Bayswater is now the property of the Chelsea water-work company. Its water, which is copious, is conveyed through the fields and along Oxford-street in pipes. It supplies the houses in and about Bond-street. At Westbourn-house, though within a short distance of the conduit, a well was lately sunk two hundred and eighty feet deep before the workmen came to a spring. Before we quit this place, we cannot help noticing another attempt to gain water by sinking a well, at Norland-house, the seat of Luke Vulliamy, Esq. one mile from Bayswater, at the two mile-stone on the Uxbridge road. It was begun and carried on at a very considerable expense, and for a long time produced nothing but disappointment, in consequence of treacherous quicksands, &c. The owner was nearly tired out; but still persevering with hopes, as the premises and ground wanted nothing but water to make a most desirable retreat, at last, to his great joy, the digger, at two hundred and sixty feet depth, struck his pick-axe into a strong spring, which gushed out with such force, that it was with difficulty he was got out before the well was filled, leaving his tools behind him. It throws up about forty-eight gallons in one minute, flowing some feet above the surface. The water is remarkably soft, as clear as crystal, and now supplies two fish-ponds, one of which is stocked with trout, which thrive remarkably well. It is said to be softer than rain-water, and for that reason is fetched from London by the upholsterers to wash their feathers in. A lying-in hospital called the queen's, her majesty being patroness, is situated at Bayswater. In the time of the great plague there were pest-houses at this place, and some on the spot still bear that name.

The church at Paddington is a new and handsome edifice, of Grecian architecture, with a Doric portico, and a cupola. The parish being chiefly church-land, it has partaken little of the modern increase of building, till lately, that about 100 small cottages for the use of workmen and artificers have been erected. The whole present number of houses is about 350.

A survey for a canal from Paddington round the northern side of London to Moorfields, and from thence to the river Lea, was made in 1773, by Robert Whitworth, Esq. by order of the city of London, in which James Sharp, Esq. took an active part; but the scheme was not brought to execution. Another survey has been taken by the Grand Junction Canal Company, and a bill for carrying the same into force is now before parliament, and it is to be hoped will meet with that success which so useful an undertaking deserves.

P A N C R A S.

ABOUT a mile to the north of London stands the church of St. Pancras, belonging to a parish of great extent, which, comprehending part of what is now included in the metropolis itself, as Tottenham-court-road, and several streets to the west of it, extends as far as Highgate northwards, and Battle-bridge eastwards. The ground not occupied by buildings, brick-kilns, &c. is almost entirely devoted to meadow and pasturage. The church is a mean ancient structure, very disproportionate in size to its parochial jurisdiction. It is of particular note for the predilection those of the Roman catholic persuasion have long had for interment within it and its church-yard. From a copious list of its monuments we select the names of Cooper, the famous miniature-painter in the last century, Leoni the architect, Van Bleek the portrait-painter, Woollett the engraver, count Haslang the Bavarian minister, Paxton the musician, and baron de Wenzel the oculist. A spacious new cemetery has lately been added to the old crowded one.

Near the church itself is no considerable collection of houses, and what there are have mostly been erected within a very few years. The public house known by the name of the Adam and Eve, with its tea-gardens, is indeed of old standing. On the London side of the parish, the most remarkable objects are, the hospital for the small-pox, both natural and by inoculation, the Foundling Hospital, and the Welch Charity School; institutions of which a more particular account is elsewhere given*; Bagnigge Wells, a noted place of public entertainment, possessing two medicinal springs, one chalybeate, and the other cathartic; and St. Chad's well, the water of which is diuretic and aperient. *Somers-town* is a hamlet of Pancras situated to the south-west of the church, and consisting of several streets

* In the preceding volume of the History of London.

newly erected, with a chapel of ease called Bethel chapel. *Camden-town* is another still newer hamlet, forming a street along the Hampstead road, from which several others are to branch out when the plan is completed. In this town an establishment has been formed of a kind absolutely new in this country, though not unfrequent on the continent. It is a *Veterinary College*, or place for the treatment of lamed and diseased horses, with an institution for regular and scientific instruction in the art of farriery. Large buildings have been erected for its several purposes; and a professor resident on the spot gives lectures to pupils, who are encouraged by a certainty of employment in the cavalry. This institution was founded by private subscription; but its pecuniary embarrassments have been relieved by parliamentary aid.

The hamlet of *Kentish-town*, lying to the north of Pancras church, consists of a long street ascending to the high ground near Highgate, and chiefly composed of boxes and lodging-houses for the accommodation of the inhabitants of London, with boarding-schools, public houses, &c. The higher parts of it enjoy an extensive prospect. New rows of houses have almost connected it with the bottom of Highgate-hill. There is a neat chapel of ancient foundation, lately rebuilt.

Further on, within the limits of this parish, is *Cane* or *Ken-wood*, the very pleasant seat of lord Mansfield, which by its stately woods and extensive grounds gives an idea of a nobleman's domain beyond what one would expect so near the capital. It spreads over a large space of the ground between the hills of Hampstead and Highgate, and forms a beautiful feature in the landscape they compose. It derived celebrity from its owner, the great earl of Mansfield, who purchased it in 1755 of lord Bute, and made it his principal summer residence. He added to the house its greatest ornament, a fine library room designed by Adam, and painted by Zucchi. Several busts and portraits of eminent men suitably decorate this seat. His successor, the late earl of Mansfield, made large improvements in the house, and took in a considerable extent of land to the pleasure-grounds, besides turning the road, which formerly ran close to the house, to some distance from it. We cannot help mentioning, before we quit this seat, that if the accommodation of the public had been originally attended to, rather than private convenience, the great north road ought to have turned off to the left from the bottom of Highgate-hill, and passed through Cane-wood between the Hampstead and Highgate hills; by which means, on cutting through a narrow hill, a level might nearly have been

obtained

obtained with the northern district, and the great inconvenience of the ascent and descent of Highgate-hill have been avoided.

Scarcely any parish in or about London has had so great an increase of buildings and population within a few years as that of Pancras. Besides the two entirely new towns that have been mentioned, great building-schemes have been executed about Battle-bridge, the Foundling-hospital, and especially in and near Tottenham-court-road; so that the present number of houses is thought to be under-rated at 4000. The increase in the value of the living is proportionable to that of its population. We have been well informed, that whereas the late rector did not make more than 600*l.* *per annum* of it, the present incumbent, the Rev. Mr. Champneys, values it at the sum of 2500*l.*, which is still yearly augmenting. The living is in the patronage of the dean and chapter of St. Paul's.

I S L I N G T O N.

THIS village, which by its extent exhibits the appearance of a considerable town, lies due north of St. Paul's cathedral, at the distance of about a mile from the proper limits of the city, though almost joined to it by contiguity of new buildings. Islington is a place of great antiquity, and has for centuries been a sort of rural appendage to London, to the inhabitants of which it has afforded the advantages of good air and country lodgings, and a nursery for young children. There are several houses of ancient date in the town, but none that afford much matter for curiosity, except a lofty brick tower, the remains of *Canonbury-house*, originally a country residence of the priors of St. Bartholomew in London, and successively inhabited by several persons of distinction. The tower is now let out in separate apartments to lodgers, and has been occupied by some persons of note in the literary world, among whom were Ephraim Chambers, and Dr. Goldsmith. A capital mansion once existing at *Highbury-place* has long exhibited no relics but its moat. On its site is the villa of Alexander Aubert, Esq. distinguished by its observatory, furnished with an excellent astronomical apparatus.

The parish church is a modern brick edifice, ornamented with stone, and furnished with a spire steeple, a conspicuous object from the neighbourhood. The living is a vicarage, under private patronage. Dr. Cave, the celebrated ecclesiastical historian,

historian, was vicar here in the last century. The methodists have a chapel in Islington; and there is a meeting for the independents.

At Islington the New River finishes its winding course. Of this excellent supply of the metropolis with water we have given a very particular account in the preceding pages.

Near Islington is a chalybeat spring of some note, resembling that of Tunbridge, and known by the name of *Islington Spa*, or *New Tunbridge Wells*. One Sadler, who either discovered or new-opened the spring, set up near it a music-house, since converted into the well-known place of amusement called *Sadler's Wells*, distinguished by its performances of dancing, tumbling, and pantomime. *White-conduit House*, near Islington, is much frequented as a tea-drinking place. It takes its name from an ancient stone conduit near it, now disused.

Great accessions of building have of late years been made to Islington; particularly at the northern end, where the handsome and pleasant rows of building called *Highbury-place* and *Terrace* have been erected; and towards the west, where a whole new town has been built, under the name of *Pentonville*, from Mr. *Penton*, the gentleman to whom the land belonged. It has a neat chapel, which stands (as does most of the hamlet) in the parish of St. James, Clerkenwell. The end towards Newington-green has likewise been augmented by several streets and rows of houses. The present number of houses in Islington parish is about 1200. The burials of this place very much exceed the baptisms, on account of the number of nursed children who die here. Many invalids also resort to it for the air; though its increased size and contiguity to the town have much impaired the advantage its elevation would otherwise give it in this respect. Highbury, however, yet enjoys an uncontaminated atmosphere.

The land about Islington is almost entirely pasture and meadow, and chiefly in the occupation of cow-keepers for the supply of the metropolis. The number of cows kept runs from 1200 to 1500. Many bricks are made in the part adjoining to Hackney parish; where is also a considerable manufacture of white lead.

H A C K N E Y.

THIS parish, situated at a small distance to the north-east of London, contains, besides the town of the same name, the contiguous hamlets of Upper and

Lower

Lower Clapton, and Homerton, with various appurtenances, all together composing one of the largest and most opulent villages in England. Notwithstanding its situation on a tract of ground almost level, the goodness of its soil, and the artificial beauties of plantation and culture with which it is decorated, together with its convenient distance, have long rendered it a favourite residence for persons engaged in the commerce of the metropolis, who wish to withdraw from its noise and smoke. It is consequently furnished with many excellent houses, possessed of every desirable convenience and ornament, though none of them afford much matter to excite the curiosity of a stranger. The chief diversities of ground are the low and marshy parts on the banks of the Lea, and the elevated sites of Upper Clapton and Stamford-hill, which last enjoy extensive prospects into Essex and Middlesex.

The parish church of Hackney, an irregular pile erected at different periods, having been found too small for the increasing number of parishioners, has lately been exchanged for a large new brick edifice built in a neighbouring field, which, after much delay and unexpected cost, is at length fitted for the reception of a congregation. The old church and church-yard are well filled with monuments; of which the more remarkable are, those of Christopher Urswick, an eminent statesman under Henry VII. and rector of this parish; Thomas Wood, Esq. and sons; the Rowe family; the Blackall family; and J. Sotheby, Esq. A tomb formerly existed here of Henry, earl of Northumberland, who died at his manor of Hackney in the reign of Henry VIII. The living of Hackney is a vicarage, presented by a lay rector.

Other places of worship in the parish are, a chapel at Homerton, now used as a methodist meeting; another at Upper Clapton; a meeting-house of dissenters of the presbyterian denomination, called the Gravel-pit; one of independents in St. Thomas's-square, and another in Homerton. The Jews have a burial-ground in Grove-street. Many men of considerable eminence in literature have officiated at these places. Archbishop Sheldon was some time vicar here. Mr. Peter Newcome, vicar in the beginning of this century, the author of a course of sermons, founded a boarding-school, which has continued in reputation to the present time under the same family. Dr. John Worthington, an eminent divine, and John Strype the antiquary, were lecturers of Hackney. The presbyterians reckon Nye and Byfield, Bates and Henry, among their ancient pastors; and the distinguished names of Price and Priestley appear among the late ones. Among the remarkable persons

persons who were born at Hackney, or made it their residence, may be mentioned Sir Ralph Sadleir, a statesman of eminence in the reigns of Henry VIII. and Elizabeth; John Ward, the rich usurer, rendered notorious by Pope; Dr. Mandeville, author of the *Fable of the Bees*: and the truly philanthropical John Howard.

The population of Hackney has kept pace in its increase with that of most of the villages in the vicinity of London. The present number of houses in the whole parish is estimated at about 1600. There are a few manufactures for the employ of the inhabitants; as lead-works at the Temple mills, some silk mills at the Wick, some calendering, colour-making, and calico-printing. Of the farms in the parish, about two-thirds are in grass, and chiefly occupied by cow-keepers. There are some market-gardeners, and two considerable nursery-men; and large quantities of bricks are made, particularly about Kingsland.

STRATFORD-BOW.

THIS village, commonly called Bow, lying to the east of London, terminates the county of Middlesex on that side, being separated only by the stream of the river Lea from Essex. It is supposed to take its name of *Bow* from a bridge of one arch built over the river by queen Matilda. The place is of small extent, and has not partaken of the late increase of building round the metropolis. Many of its houses have a considerable air of antiquity. At Old-Ford, a hamlet in the parish where was the ancient ford over the river, are some small remains of a mansion, commonly, though probably erroneously, called king John's palace. Its site now belongs to Christ's-hospital.

The parish church of Bow, an ancient edifice of flint and stones, with a tower steeple, was originally a chapel of ease to Stepney. It became parochial in 1719. The principal manufacture of the village is calico-printing, now chiefly carried on at the grounds of Macmurdo and Co. at Old-Ford, where a considerable number of people are kept in constant employ. There is at the same place a chemical work for the making of sal ammoniac. Scarlet-dying for the East India company was once largely practised in this village, but the business has now left it.

The land belonging to the parish is nearly an equal mixture of arable and grass. Some of it is occupied by nursery-grounds and gardens. The number of houses is about 330.

STEPNEY.

STEPNEY.

THE parish of *Stepney*, or *Stebunbethe*, contiguous to, and now forming part of, the eastern side of the metropolis, is situated in the precinct of the Tower-hamlets, and occupies most of the space between the Mile-end road and the Thames, from Whitechapel to Bow, extending also in some places to a considerable distance beyond the Mile-end road. It was formerly much more extensive; but several of its hamlets, covered by buildings and annexed to the metropolis, have been made separate parishes. Stepney now contains four hamlets; Ratcliffe, Mile-end old town, Mile-end new town, and Poplar and Blackwall conjunctly. The manor of Stepney, anciently part of the episcopal demesne of London, was alienated in the reign of Edward VI. and has been transmitted through various hands to the Colebrooke family, in whom the reversion now resides after the death of Sir G. Colebrooke. The present possessor is Jonathan Eade, Esq. The ancient manor-house of Stepney is supposed to have been situated at a place called Bishops'-hall, now in the parish of Bethnal-green. There were several inferior manors, and old mansions, of which some remains still exist. The most remarkable relic is a gateway of very fine brick-work, and inhabited, formerly belonging to Worcester-house, a large mansion of the first marquis of Worcester. It is situated opposite the rectory, and was the birth-place of that very eminent physician Dr. Richard Mead, whose father, the Rev. Matthew Mead, was a dissenting minister here. A wooden edifice, now the Spring-garden coffee-house, was the residence of Sir Henry Colet, father of the celebrated Dr. Colet, once vicar of Stepney, and afterwards dean of St. Paul's, and founder of St. Paul's school.

The parish church of Stepney is a large irregular Gothic building with a square tower. On the outside are some rude carvings; and both the church and church-yard are well furnished with tombs, few of them, however, entitled to particular notice. One of the most conspicuous in the church is that of Sir Henry Colet. Many are of sea-faring people. That distinguished naval character, admiral Sir John Leake, is buried in the church-yard, and has a long historical inscription to his memory. The living is a rectory, under the patronage of Brazen-nose college, Oxford. A large congregation of protestant dissenters has long subsisted in this parish; and there are now various other places of worship belonging to the separatists. It appears that Stepney was a great sufferer in the plague of 1665. The
number

number of persons who died of it during that year in the parish (then more extensive) was 6583; of these, 154 persons were buried on the single 11th of September.

The hamlet of *Poplar and Blackwall*, containing about 600 houses, most of them old, has a chapel of ease of its own, a neat brick structure, almost entirely rebuilt by the East India company in 1776. It contains many monuments, chiefly of persons connected with the company; among the rest one of Dr. Gloster Ridley, a poet, historian, and divine of distinction, who was long chaplain of Poplar, where he resided. Adjoining the chapel are alms-houses belonging to the East India company, consisting of twenty-two tenements, for the widows of inferior officers and seamen, who are supported by quarterly pensions. Within this hamlet is Stepney marsh, or the Isle of Dogs, a peninsula consisting of 836 acres, lying within the bend of the Thames between Blackwall and Ratcliffe. It is embanked from the river, and forms an excellent pasture for the fattening of sheep and cattle. Blackwall, at the eastern extremity of the hamlet, where it runs out to the boundaries of the county, has long been of note for its ship-yard and docks, which under the present owner, John Perry, Esq. have been rendered the most extensive and well-contrived in the kingdom, belonging to an individual. He has made a spacious basin, capable of receiving twenty-eight East Indiamen and fifty or sixty smaller ships, furnished with the most commodious wharfs, cranes, and other conveniences, a boiling-house and warehouses for the Greenland fishery, and a vast piece of mechanism for masting and dismasting East India ships, greatly preferable to the sheer-hulks usually employed. His buildings for naval stores, timber-yards, roperies, &c. are all on a proportionate scale; and the whole number of hands employed by him is on the average about 300. Off Blackwall some of the homeward East Indiamen are usually lying, for the use of which is a line of public houses, &c. along the river.

The hamlet of *Ratcliffe* is in the western division of the parish, and consists of a number of streets chiefly occupied by persons concerned in the trade on the river. One of the greatest fires that has been known in London within this century happened here on 23d of July 1794, which destroyed 455 houses, and thirty-six warehouses. There are several alms-houses, schools, and places of worship in this hamlet. It contains a dock, an East India warehouse for saltpetre, two large roperies, and a noted manufacture of window glass.

Mile-end Old Town occupies the greater part of the northern side of the parish. It contains

contains two burying-grounds of the Portuguese Jews, and one of the German or Dutch Jews, which are considerable objects of curiosity. There is also a very neat hospital and an alms-house for the Portuguese Jews. In this hamlet are a hartshorn manufacture, another for sponges for ships, two roperies, and three large breweries. On the north side of the Mile-end road are four charitable establishments belonging to public bodies: the alms-houses of the corporation of the Trinity; Bancroft's hospital, a large and handsome edifice containing alms-houses and a charity-school, founded in 1727 by Francis Bancroft, citizen of London and draper; the skinners', and vintners' alms-houses.

The hamlet of *Mile-end New Town* stands detached from the rest of the parish on the northern side.

The whole parish of Stepney contains about 1530 acres, exclusive of the site of buildings, of which by far the greater part are meadow, pasture, and marsh. There is some arable and garden ground. The soil is chiefly loam and gravel. The number of houses is about 3100; of inhabitants, 17,000. The population has greatly increased within late years, and seems still augmenting. The ravages of the fire at Ratcliffe are all repaired, and the calamity, as usual, has ended in improvement.

NEWINGTON-STOKE.

THIS agreeable village is about the distance of three miles north from the eastern part of London, upon the great north road through Ware. The ground on which it stands is a continuation of the level from London, and does not rise till the road has just passed the village and begins to ascend Stamford-hill, in the parish of Hackney. The best part of Newington consists of a long street extending from the high road to the church, beyond which, the New River in its circuitous course flowing by the end of the town, fronts a very pleasant range of houses called Paradise-row. The new house and pleasure-grounds of Jonathan Hoare, Esq. in this neighbourhood, form the most distinguished ornament of the village.

The parish church is a small irregular structure, built at different times, with a low tower. In it are a number of monuments, among which the most remarkable are those of Mr. Dudley, and of the Hartopp and Hurlock family. The living is a rectory in the jurisdiction of the dean and chapter of St. Paul's, and under the patronage of the prebendary of Newington. There is a dissenting meeting-house

in

in the village, and another in the neighbouring hamlet of Newington-green. This last place is a small square of houses pleasantly built round a green, at the distance of half a mile.

Newington at different periods has been inhabited by several persons of note. Edward, earl of Oxford, in the reign of queen Elizabeth, had a house here, of which some small remains are supposed to exist in the barn of a cow-keeper. It was probably from a visit of the queen's either to this nobleman, or to the earl of Leicester, who seems also to have resided here, that a walk planted with large elms received the name which it now retains of Queen Elizabeth's Walk. Sir John Popham, lord chief justice of the queen's bench, resided at Newington, as did also his son, Sir Francis, a strenuous opposer in parliament of the measures of Charles I. Fleetwood, son-in-law to Oliver Cromwell, possessed a house here, in which he spent his latter days in peace after the Restoration. His son-in-law was Sir John Hartopp, who occupied the same house after him, as did his successors, the Hartopps and Hurlocks. It is now Mrs. Crisp's boarding-school for young ladies. The present manor-house, built by Mr. Gunston, and afterwards the property of Sir Thomas Abney, was for many years the hospitable retreat of that amiable and eminent divine Dr. Watts. Other distinguished occasional inhabitants of Newington were the celebrated Daniel Defoe*; Anderson, the laborious writer on commerce; James Burgh, author of *Political Disquisitions*, and other works; Thomas Day, writer of *Sandford and Merton*; and the benevolent John Howard. Thomas Cooke, Esq. a Turkey merchant, known by the liberal pecuniary relief he afforded to Charles XII. of Sweden, as well as by many singularities, was also long a resident here.

Newington has partaken less of the increase of building than most of the villages about London, and its annual burials have rather diminished than increased for fifteen years past. The additional buildings on the east side of the high road are in Hackney parish. The number of houses in the parish is about 200. The land is almost all in grass, except a few acres occupied by market-gardeners.

* The life of this writer has lately been minutely detailed by George Chalmers, Esq. who has bestowed much curious research upon the subject.

H O R N S E Y.

ABOUT five miles to the north of London lies the retired village of Hornsey, in a situation perfectly rural, and fertile of natural beauties. The country in this part, rising into small hills, affords a continual variety of surface, and is clothed in almost perpetual verdure. The New River winding through it enlivens the scenery, though its canal-like uniformity of breadth and banks rather suits the creations of art than the landscapes of nature. A considerable quantity of wood, with which some of the eminences are covered, impresses, however, somewhat of a wild character on this tract. The manor of Hornsey is an ancient demesne of the see of London; and its great park is recorded in our histories as the place where some of the powerful barons assembling in arms in 1386, obliged the misguided Richard II. to dismiss his obnoxious favourites.

Hornsey parish, besides the village of the name, contains the hamlets of Crouch-end, Muswell-hill, Stroud-green, and the greater part of Highgate. Of this last place we shall, however, treat separately. The village of *Hornsey* is small. Its church is an old building, with a low square tower, embattled, and of remarkable thickness. Of its monuments, one of the most remarkable is that of Richard Candish, Esq. a member of parliament in the reign of Elizabeth. There is likewise one of Samuel Buckley, the editor of Thuanus. The hamlet of *Crouch-end* is a small collection of houses in a hollow between Hornsey and Highgate. That of *Muswell-hill* lies to the north-west, and is perched upon a fine eminence, affording a delightful prospect. A chapel, with a noted image of the Virgin Mary, once stood here, and great medicinal virtues were supposed to belong to a well, whence the place took its name. But though the spring remains, its virtues are forgotten. The farm of Muswell-hill is at present the property of lady Bath.

At some distance from Hornsey, near Newington, is a rough tract of ground covered with dwarf trees and underwood, called *Hornsey-wood*, well known to the inhabitants of London on account of a pleasant tea-drinking house on its edge, much frequented on Sundays and holidays.

The number of houses in Hornsey parish is about 420, of which 264 are in the hamlet of Highgate, and the remainder in the places above described. The land of the parish is for the most part in meadow and pasture; but the quantity of waste

waste and wood land is not inconsiderable. A new turnpike road passing by Newington-green to Southgate, and joining the Barnet road, so as to avoid Highgate-hill, runs along this parish.

H I G H G A T E.

HIGHGATE-HILL, crowned with its houses and gardens, is one of the most conspicuous objects on the northern side of London, and together with its sister-eminence of Hampstead agreeably varies the line of the horizon. It is the steepest and boldest of the two, and presents somewhat romantic in the dark shade of its hanging groves. The great north road by Barnet, running level from Islington to the straggling hamlet of Holloway, thence rises suddenly up the hill to Highgate. The summit and part of the descent are covered by the village, built chiefly on the side of the great road, and of the lanes leading to Hampstead, Kentish-town, and Hornsey, towards all which places the ground descends. The view every way is extensive and pleasing.

Highgate has a chapel of ease under the parish church of Hornsey. It is a brick edifice, that has undergone successive enlargements and repairs. Its most remarkable monuments are those of Mr. Platt and his wife, Dr. Atterbury (brother to the bishop), Sir Edward Gould, and Sir Francis Pemberton. There is an endowed grammar-school near the chapel, the master of which is afternoon preacher. Highgate has also a presbyterian meeting-house, and a methodist chapel.

Some eminent persons have been resident at this place. The literary family of Blount had a house at Upper Holloway. That learned peer the marquis of Dorchester possessed a mansion at Highgate; as did that eminent lawyer, chief justice Pemberton.

Highgate has several houses of considerable antiquity. It has received little accession of building latterly, and its population does not appear to have increased for many years past. Adjoining to the village is an elegant villa of the earl of Southampton's, called *Fitzroy-farm*, the grounds of which border upon Cane-wood. The view on this side is extremely pleasing, and is much enlivened by the large ponds belonging to the Hampstead water-works, the source of which is in Cane-wood. A great discouragement to building on Highgate-hill is want

of

of water, which can only be procured by sinking wells to an extraordinary depth.

The annexed view of London was taken from a field on the top of the hill adjoining the foot-path, on the right-hand side of the quick-hedge. It comprehends Westminster-abbey on the right, and Shooter's-hill in the back-ground to the left.

Here it may not be improper to remark, that several journies were made to Highgate and the neighbouring eminences with intent to take a view of the metropolis. By experience it was found that the best time for viewing London was about three o'clock in the afternoon, of a bright, clear summer's day, with little haze, and a northerly wind. At this hour the people of the middle class have dressed their dinners, and the cooks of the rich have not yet begun to make their fires.

F I N C H L E Y.

THIS is a small village, situated about a mile to the west of the great north road, about eight miles from London. The name is chiefly known by being annexed to the neighbouring extensive *common*, a place formidable to travellers from the highway robberies of which it has been the scene. Military encampments to guard the metropolis have also been made upon it, of which the last was after the riots in 1780.

The village of Finchley, which gives the idea of perfect rural retirement, has a Gothic church, with a low embattled steeple, containing several monuments, but not worth particularizing. The living is a rectory, in the patronage of the bishop of London. The inhabitants are chiefly farmers. Its population has rather diminished than increased within the last fifteen or twenty years. The present number of houses is about 250. The land is occupied partly in arable, partly in wood, but mostly in pasture and meadow. Finchley-common, of which two-thirds is situated in this parish, is estimated to contain 2010 acres, the waste and uncultivated state of which, so near to the metropolis, is disgraceful to the economy of the country.



W. Knight sculp.

VIEW of LONDON

from Highgate.

London Pub. Nov. 6, 1797 by J. Stockdale, Piccadilly.

C. Dwyer del.



W. Knight sculp.

VIEW OF FRIERN-HOUSE

The seat of H. B. B. Esq.

C. Dwyer del.

BARNET FRIERN,

OR *Fryars Barnet*, is a small parish, situated within the liberties of Finsbury and Wenlockbarn, to the north-east of Finchley-common. It takes its appellation, distinguishing it from the other Barnets, from having been anciently the property of the friars of St. John of Jerusalem, in Clerkenwell. The village is seated near the road, about nine miles from London. The church is small and ancient, of Norman architecture with a mixture of Gothic. The living is a rectory, under the patronage of the dean and chapter of St. Paul's, to whom the manor has belonged since the dissolution of the monasteries.

The most remarkable object in this parish is the manor-house, called the Friary, or Friern-house, in which, notwithstanding the many alterations and additions it has received, are several visible remains of antiquity. Its situation is retired and very pleasant. Its approach is rendered venerable by the remains of a cloister with crosses upon the stones. This leads to a confessional, and a part of the old hall. Under the floor of the modern hall, built about 1660, is an excavation, supposed to be the lavatory or bath of the friars. In the exterior part of the house, leading towards the church, is a place called the Monk's-hole, a subterraneous passage leading to another confessional, or, as some suppose, a place of confinement for the refractory brethren. This house was originally the manse or country-house of the friars of St. John, and was the first *hospitium* for the entertainment of travellers upon the northern road, on which it was situated. It has had a variety of occupants as lessees under the dean and chapter, and is now the residence of John Bacon, Esq. of the First-Fruits office. This gentleman possesses several portraits of the illustrious name of Bacon; one, supposed to be the only one extant, of that extraordinary genius, beyond the age he lived in, Roger Bacon; others, of the lord keeper Bacon; his son the famous lord chancellor Verulam; and many more of the family to the present possessor. There is likewise a bust of Handel by Roubilliac, from a plaster mask taken from his face in his life-time, as the model for his statue in Westminster-abbey; and a painting of Charles Jennens, Esq. a friend and patron of Handel, who furnished the words of the Messiah and several of his oratorios*. The grounds in this neighbourhood are beautifully diversified, and so

* The annexed view of the friary or manor-house is taken from the queen's gate, so called from its being opened as an entrance for queen Anne, when she honoured Dr. King, then the possessor, with a visit.

high as to command an extensive view of Essex beyond the river Lea. At Colney-hatch, a hamlet in this parish, are several pleasant residences ; as the villa lately the Hon. Mrs. Boscawen's ; that of John Pasley, Esq. ; of Richard Down, Esq. and others.

The soil of this parish is mostly a stiff clay ; and the proportion of arable to meadow is very small. Considerable improvements have lately been made by Mr. Bacon in under-draining and other new practices in agriculture. The present number of houses is seventy-eight ; that of inhabitants seems from the bills of mortality to have been nearly stationary for a number of years past. There is an alms-house in the parish for twelve poor persons, founded in 1612 by Laurence Campe, citizen and draper of London.

H A M P S T E A D.

NONE of the villages round London has obtained so much fame for beauty of situation as Hampstead ; a praise it deserves not only on account of the command its elevated site gives it over a large tract of circumjacent country ; but from the very varied surface of ground on which it stands, affording a number of small landscapes agreeably composed of groves, shady lanes, gardens, and buildings, singularly contrasted in character and disposition. The neighbouring heath, too, offers a feature of wildness and rusticity, very striking in the vicinity of so much culture. Little is wanted to the perfection of rural beauty in the general scenery of Hampstead, but greater abundance of water ; the reservoir-ponds on the east side of the town but partially and imperfectly supplying this essential requisite to the picturesque.

These attractions have for a long time past drawn residents of rank and opulence to Hampstead ; and many names of distinction are reckoned among its inhabitants. Sir Henry Vane had a house here, which afterwards belonged to Dr. Butler, the celebrated bishop of Durham. Several distinguished characters of the law have at different times chosen it for their country retreat ; and at present it contains the seats of the Lord Chancellor, the Master of the Rolls, and other eminent persons of the profession. At the edge of the brow adjoining to Cane-wood is the residence of that most distinguished orator and pleader the Hon. Thomas Erskine. Some of

the first wits and poets, as Gay, Arbuthnot, and Steele, have occupied temporary lodgings here; the latter passed some of the latter part of his life at a small house on Haverstock-hill in this parish. The eminent actors, Booth, Wilks, and Cibber had a summer retirement on the heath; and the ingenious poet and physician Dr. Akenfide resided at Hampstead several years. At this day, several persons well known in the literary world are inhabitants of this delightful spot. One of these is George Steevens, Esq. whose name will descend to posterity as the most able and industrious of the annotators of Shakespeare.

The church at Hampstead is a modern brick building, with a square tower, surmounted by a low spire. It contains the monument of Dr. Askew, noted as the possessor of a very valuable collection of books, particularly classics. The churchyard is furnished with a number of conspicuous and handsome tombs, worthy of notice on the spot, though the enumeration here would be uninteresting. The living is a perpetual curacy, under the patronage of the lord of the manor. There is likewise a chapel of ease at Hampstead, and a meeting for dissenters of the presbyterian denomination, and another for the methodists.

A chalybeate spring on the east side of the town was formerly much frequented. Near it are long rooms for dancing and other public amusements. Kilbourn-wells, also in this parish, afford a water of a saline and cathartic nature. Here is the site of an ancient abbey, near the present tea-drinking house. A noted place of entertainment on the heath, called the Spaniard, is much frequented on account of its pleasant situation, near the grounds of Cane-wood; and other places for a similar purpose are open for the holiday visitors of the beauties of Hampstead. The village, however, is not one of those which has much partaken of the late spirit of building, and its population has had a very gradual increase for fifteen or twenty years past. The present number of houses in the parish is near 700.

The land is almost entirely in grass farms, except a considerable proportion of waste. At West-end, between Hampstead and Kilbourn, is the handsome residence of Mrs. Beckford, situated in the midst of fine enclosed grounds. Though at the bottom of Hampstead-hill, it has elevation enough to command a pleasing prospect on every side. About a mile north-west of Kilbourn-wells, in the road to Wilfdon, lady Salisbury has a beautiful seat in a very pleasant situation.

A C T O N.

THIS village is situated upon an eminence on the Uxbridge road, five miles from Tybourn turnpike. It was once much celebrated for its medicinal water, of the saline purgative kind, issuing from three wells about half a mile from East Acton, which rendered it a fashionable place of resort about the middle of the present century; but the same influence of fashion has now caused them to be deserted; and with their fame, the gaiety of the village is lost. Acton has been at different periods the residence of several persons of note. One of its manors has passed through some noble families to the present proprietor, Benjamin Lethieullier, Esq. Lord Rouse, a person of note in Cromwell's administration, had a house here; as had likewise the celebrated parliament general Philip Skippon; and the learned lawyer and excellent man Sir Matthew Hale. Baxter, the eminent nonconformist divine, resided here many years after the Restoration. The polemic Daniel Featley was once rector here: and was succeeded by a champion of the opposite party, Philip Nye, recorded in Hudibras. Lord chief justice Vaughan, and Saville, marquis of Halifax, had houses at Acton.

The parish church, a mixture of old and new architecture, has a square brick tower, from its situation a conspicuous object to the vicinity. It has monuments of various persons of some rank. In the church-yard a tomb records an extraordinary instance of longevity, that of William Aldridge, wheelwright, who died in 1698, at the age of 114. The living is a rectory, under the jurisdiction and patronage of the bishop of London. By the register, a modern increase of population appears, which has probably chiefly taken place at Turnham-green, part of which is in this parish, and forms handsome rows of building on the side of the great Bath road.

The greater part of the land is under the plough, and affords a pleasing view of rural agriculture, especially during harvest, to the neighbouring metropolis.

 E A L I N G.

THIS village is pleasantly situated near the Uxbridge road about two miles beyond Acton. Its manor belongs to the bishop of London. The parish is extensive,

five, containing, besides the village, the hamlets of Little Ealing, Gunnersbury, and Old Brentford. There are several distinguished seats in it: as Ealing-house, Cold-hall, Hickes-upon-the-heath, Ealing-grove, Place-house, and Gunnersbury-house. The latter was built by Webbe, a pupil of Inigo Jones, for that celebrated lawyer serjeant Maynard, after whose death it came into the hands of the earl of Suffolk and other persons, and was at length sold to the late princess Amelia, who made it her summer residence, and considerably enlarged it. Dr. John Owen, a very eminent presbyterian divine, was long an inhabitant of Ealing; the learned bishop Pearce had a house in it inherited from his father; and that humourous writer Henry Fielding, and the brave foldier lord Heathfield, had residences in this parish.

The church is a new brick building, with a tower and turret. The living is a vicarage, in the patronage of the bishop of London. George-chapel in Old Brentford is in this parish; and at the same place are meetings of presbyterians, anabaptists, and methodists. The Sunday schools in the parish, instituted by Mr. Sturges the present vicar, and carefully superintended by Mrs. Trimmer of Old Brentford, have proved remarkably successful in improving the rising generation. The population of Ealing has considerably increased of late years, especially in that part of it which is comprised in Old Brentford, and which contains about 500 of the 700 houses constituting its present number. Of the land, about one half is in grass, the other mostly arable, except 250 acres occupied by market gardeners. Great quantities of wall-fruit are grown here for sale, and there are large plantations of raspberries for the distillers.

C H I S W I C K.

THIS is one of the villages which decorate the banks of the Thames, and contribute so much to the pleasure and convenience of the metropolis. Its distance from Hyde-park-corner is about five miles. Its houses are partly in a group near the river, and partly border the great west road at Turnham-green. Of the remarkable objects it affords, the principal is the duke of Devonshire's beautiful seat, on the site of an ancient mansion, which after belonging to several persons of rank, passed into the Burlington family; the last earl of which name, so celebrated for

his taste in architecture, built a small but elegant villa after a design of Palladio. He at the same time laid out the gardens in the Italian style, decorating them profusely with temples, statues, and other ornamental works, either antique, or by the best masters of the time. From his daughter and heiress it came to the Devonshire family; and the house has received large additions from the present duke, after a plan of Wyatt's, corresponding to the design of the original edifice.

The Ruffel family possessed a seat in the parish of Chiswick, which in the reign of Elizabeth was occupied by Sir William Ruffel, a distinguished military character. After belonging to various members of that family, it passed into other hands, and at length, under the name of *Corney-house*, was purchased by its present owner, Sir C. W. Rouse Boughton, Bart.

Grove-house, now the beautiful villa of Mrs. Luther on the banks of the Thames, dates as far back as the reign of Henry IV. It was for several generations the property of the Barker family, and at length by purchase came to the earl of Grantham, who laid out the pleasure-grounds. The house owes its chief additions and improvements to Mr. Morrice, who was the next purchaser. Its paddock abounds with walnut and Spanish chestnut trees.

A capital house at Turnham-green was the principal residence of lord Heathfield before his death. It now belongs to Dr. Meyersbach. Sir Henry Sidney, lord president of Ireland in Elizabeth's reign, had a house at Chiswick. The Chaloner family resided here; and that celebrated traveller Sir John Chardin ended his life at Turnham-green. The countess of Fauconberg, daughter to Oliver Cromwell, resided at Sutton-court in this parish. Sir Stephen Fox, founder of the Fox family, had an elegant villa here. Many other persons of rank, and several eminent literary characters, have been inhabitants of Chiswick. Charles Holland, an actor of eminence, was a native of the place. Ralph, the political writer; Hogarth, the inimitable moral painter; Dr. Morell, an eminent classical scholar; and Dr. Rose, an able critic and writer; passed more or less of their lives here.

The church of Chiswick is an old structure of stone and flint, with a tower. Among its monuments, some of the most remarkable are those of Sir Thomas Chaloner; of Mr. Thomas Bentley, partner of Mr. Wedgwood the potter, and greatly instrumental by his taste in improving the elegance of that manufacture;

of

of Charles Holland; of William Hogarth; and of Dr. Rose. The living is a vicarage, in the patronage of the dean and chapter of St. Paul's. The population of this parish has considerably augmented of late years, the principal increase of buildings having been at Turnham-green. The present number of houses is about 430. The land in the parish is partly arable, partly in grass, and a very considerable proportion occupied by market gardeners for the supply of London with fruit and vegetables.

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### F U L H A M.

THIS village is contiguous to the Thames, at four miles distance from Hyde-park-corner. It is particularly of note, as having been for a long period the chief summer residence of the bishops of London, who have also been lords of the manor. The palace is a brick edifice, with a large quadrangle, built in the reign of Henry VII. It has had various additions, alterations, and repairs at different periods, and is now of less extent than in former times, though much more commodious and habitable. Its chapel contains some fine painted glass; and in the library are several portraits of the different possessors of the see, collected by the present bishop, who has a laudable design of rendering the series as complete as possible. The gardens are remarkable for some exotic trees of singular age and size, planted by bishop Compton. They, together with the house, are surrounded by a moat; and some beautiful situations on the river bank have been formed into elegant walks and shrubberies.

Other remarkable buildings in this parish are *Ravenscourt*, once the site of a manor-house possessed by the famous Alice Pierce, mistress to Edward III.; *Stourton-house*, long the residence of the noble family of that name; and *Peterborough-house* at Parson's-green, once distinguished by its possessor, the celebrated Charles earl of Peterborough, but now almost dilapidated. Many other old mansions are now converted into boarding-schools, or have been pulled down for the materials. Several eminent persons have made this parish their residence; as Sir Thomas Bodley, founder of the public library at Oxford; admiral Sir Charles Wager; lord chief justice Vaughan; Samuel Richardson, the celebrated novelist; John Norden, the topographer; Tonson and Lintot, well-known booksellers; Catesby, the naturalist; and Samuel Foote, the dramatic writer and actor.



The parish church is an ancient stone edifice, with a Gothic tower. It contains several remarkable monuments; as those of lady Legh; Sir W. Butts, physician to Henry VIII.; Sir Thomas Smith, a rising man in public life at the beginning of the last century; John viscount Mordaunt (the work of Bulfinch and Bird); Samuel Barrow, M. D. The bishops of whom there are monuments in the church-yard are, Compton, Robinson, Gibson, Sherlock, Hayter, Terrick, and Lowth. The rectory of Fulham is a sinecure. The vicarage is in the rector's gift.

Fulham parish has two divisions, that of Fulham, and of Hammersmith; of the first of which we only treat at present. Its population has gradually increased, and the number of houses now somewhat exceeds 700. Its land is nearly half occupied by market gardeners; the rest is almost equally divided between grass and corn.

A wooden bridge over the Thames connects Fulham with the opposite village of Putney.

### H A M M E R S M I T H.

THE main part of this populous village is situated on the great western road about a mile beyond Kensington, and thence extends to the river's side. It is of particular note for its nursery-grounds, in some of which, rare and curious exotics are cultivated on a great scale and with singular success.

One of the most distinguished mansions in this district is that now called *Brandenburgh-house*, on the bank of the Thames. A magnificent house was first built here by Sir Nicholas Crispe, in the reign of Charles I. Its owner was obliged to leave it during the civil wars, and Fairfax made it his quarters when his army lay at Hammersmith in 1647. Crispe recovered it at the Restoration, and his nephew sold it to prince Rupert, who made a present of it to his mistress, Margaret Hughes. After passing through several hands, it came at length into the possession of George Doddington, afterwards lord Melcombe, who expended a great sum in modernising and adorning the house, and furnishing it with statues and antiques. In the year 1792 it was purchased by the margrave of Brandenburgh-Anspach, who now resides at it; and with his consort, late the relict of lord Craven, has employed



employed all the resources of modern taste and splendour to render it a model of elegance and convenience. It has a small theatre, in which dramatic performances are occasionally exhibited for the entertainment of visitors.

*Butterwick-house*, near the chapel of Hammersmith, was anciently the residence of Edmund Sheffield, earl of Mulgrave. It was modernised by Mr. Ferne, and is now in the possession of Michael Impey, Esq.

Other distinguished inhabitants of Hammersmith at various periods were, the Rev. Mikepher Alphery, of the imperial family of Russia; Sir Leoline Jenkins, secretary of state to Charles I.; queen Katharine, dowager of Charles II.; Sir Samuel Morland, eminent for mechanics; admiral Sir John Munden; Dr. Radcliffe, the celebrated physician; Sir Clifton Wintringham, of the same profession; and Thomas Worlidge the painter.

The chapel at Hammersmith is a brick building, with a square tower and turret. It contains the monuments of Edmund earl of Mulgrave, and Sir Nicholas Crispe, and a fine bronze bust of Charles I. erected by the latter. The living is a curacy in the patronage of the bishop of London. The village has also meetings for the presbyterians, anabaptists, quakers, and methodists; and there are two Roman catholic chapels, one of them at a nunnery, which has subsisted here from the reign of Charles II. and has been a noted place of education for young ladies of that religion. The population of Hammersmith has partaken considerably of the late increase about London. The present number of houses is about 790.

Of the land in this division about half is arable, the rest in grass, and under the occupation of market gardeners and nursery-men.



#### EDMONTON HUNDRED.

#### T O T T E N H A M.

THE village of Tottenham is situated a short distance from the western bank of the river Lea, about five miles north of Shoreditch church. The parish is of considerable extent, containing near 4000 acres, for the most part grass land, except about one-eighth, which is arable. The varieties of soil are clay, loam, and brick earth. The number of houses is about 470, which gives a population of nearly

1900.



1900. In the centre of the village is erected an octangular brick column, which occupies the site of an ancient wooden cross; hence it is that the name of Tottenham-high-cross is derived. A small brook called the Mose, rising from Muswell-hill near Hornsey, traverses the parish in its course to the Lea; the New River also enlivens with its numerous windings the fields on the western extremity. The parish church, dedicated to All-Saints, is a Gothic structure, built of stone, flints, and pebbles, and ornamented with monuments to the memory of the noble family of Coleraine and others. There are besides two other places appropriated to public worship, a considerable quakers' meeting, and a chapel belonging to the methodists. The private houses worthy of note are, Bruce-castle, the mansion to that portion of the old manor which was possessed by Robert Bruce, competitor with Baliol for the crown of Scotland; it was rebuilt by Sir William Compton about the year 1514, and was altered and repaired in the latter end of the last century by Henry lord Coleraine: Pembrokes and Mockings, two old moated manor-houses, deserve also to be mentioned.

William Baxter, the learned editor of Anacreon and Horace, was for many years master of the free-school here: besides the above-mentioned works he was the author of a Latin grammar, and of several papers in the Philosophical Transactions: part also of the English translation of Plutarch is to be attributed to him.

At this place is laid the scene of a very humorous burlesque poem, called the "Tournament of Tottenham," written in ridicule of the grave fooleries that were practised at the ancient single combats. It is printed in Dr. Percy's elegant "Reliques of Ancient English Poetry."



## EDMONTON.

THIS village, which gives its name to the hundred in which it is situated, lies north of Tottenham, between the river Lea and the New River. Within the limits of the parish are contained about 3660 acres, exclusive of 1231 acres of waste land on Enfield-chase. Of the cultivated part 1090 acres are open arable, about 570 inclosed arable, 1540 meadow land, and 430 marsh pasture. The soil for the most part is a rich loam and marl, containing however some spots of gravel, of clay, and peat earth. This parish has trebled its population during the two last centuries; the



the present number of houses, including 180 at the hamlet of Southgate and Palmer's-green, is 810; giving a population of about 3650.

The scenery is strongly characterised by those general features which belong to the borders of forests and other wooded wastes; and an elegant specimen of ornamented woodland is exhibited in Bush-hill-park, which is said to have been originally laid out by Le Nautre.

When Sir Hugh Middleton opened the New-river, the principles of engineering were so little understood, that, in order to overcome the inequalities of the ground at Bush-hill, it was thought expedient to make an open wooden trough or aqueduct 660 feet long, supported by arches, to preserve a communication between the upper and lower part of the channel: nor was it till the year 1784 that the aqueduct was replaced by an embankment, according to the modern more secure way of conveying canals across vallies.

The parish church is a large Gothic structure, with a square embattled tower, containing several monuments of the Middletons and others. At Southgate is a chapel of ease, in which during the last seventy years a separate register has been kept of the births and burials in this hamlet. Besides these two places of public worship for the use of the establishment, there are three chapels of methodists, one of presbyterian dissenters; and one of quakers.

There are three fairs held annually in this parish, one in the town of Edmonton, and two on the chase near Southgate.

The private houses worthy of note are, Wyer-hall, an ancient mansion named from the family of Wyrehalle, who were possessed of lands here in the time of Edward III. It is now in possession of the family of Huxley, one of whom rebuilt the house in the year 1611. Bush-hill-park, the seat of the widow of the late Joseph Mellish, Esq.; the hall is remarkable for a very curious piece of carving in wood by the celebrated Grinling Gibbons, representing the stoning of Stephen.

The hamlet of Southgate, consisting of an irregular assemblage of houses intermixed with trees, is one of the most pleasing rural residences near the metropolis, and has many respectable inhabitants. Minchenden-house, the seat of the late duke, and of the present duchess, of Chandos, with its plantations, is one of the most considerable objects. Canon-grove, belonging to alderman Curtis; the residence of Mr. Tash near it; and the villa of Isaac Smith, Esq. at Palmer's-green; are other ornaments to this neighbourhood.



## E N F I E L D.

THE town of Enfield is situated about ten miles north of London, in the most extensive parish of any in the hundred. The Lea is its eastern boundary; the parish of Edmonton its southern one; the Hertfordshire border confines it on the west; and the parishes of Barnet and South Mimms on the north. It contains, exclusive of the chase, about 6430 acres, of which 800 are marsh land, 2750 common field, 1640 inclosed arable, and 1240 inclosed pasture. The soil, except on the marsh, is for the most part a fertile loam. The northern extremity of the parish is occupied by part of Enfield chase, an extensive woody tract containing 8349 acres; the whole of which was formerly in possession of the crown, till in the year 1777 an act of parliament was passed, to divide the chase, and assign allotments to such individuals and parishes as claimed a right of common: the portion that fell to the lot of Enfield parish was 1732 acres, which added to the king's above, and those of private claimants, leaves 5824 acres in this parish, thus making the whole extent of the parish equal to 12,250 acres. The poverty of the soil, and difficulty of clearing away the wood, opposed however very formidable obstacles to its cultivation; and it was not till within these six or seven last years that any progress was made in the work: at that period a large quantity of very fine marl having been discovered, it has since been made use of with considerable success; but, notwithstanding this advantage, 1530 acres still remain in an uncultivated state: the 200 acres which are inclosed are worth upon an average thirty shillings an acre.

There has been a considerable, though gradual, increase in the population of this parish; the present number of houses is 920, containing probably about 4140 inhabitants.

The parish church is a Gothic structure, with a square embattled tower, built about the beginning of the fifteenth century, and containing the monuments of lady Tiptoft, mother of the learned earl of Worcester, who died A. D. 1446; of Edmund lord Roos, of Sir N. Raynton, lord mayor of London about the beginning of the last century; and of several other eminent London merchants. The other buildings appropriated to public worship are, a meeting-house for the anabaptists, another for the quakers, two for the methodists, and one for the presbyterian dissenters; of this last congregation the celebrated Edmund Calamy was minister; he died here in November 1666.



Two annual fairs are held here ; but the weekly market which was granted by James I. has been many years discontinued. Enfield was formerly celebrated for tanning ; at present, however, there is only one large tan-yard, which, together with works for making marbled paper, is the sole manufactory in the parish.

The manor-house, called Enfield-house, is worthy of notice as one of the royal residences during the reign of Henry VIII. Edward VI. granted the manor to his sister the princess Elizabeth, who lived here for some time, and afterwards, when queen, made frequent visits hither ; one of the rooms remains at present in its original state of cumbrous magnificence. In the year 1670 it was the residence of Dr. Uvedale, who had a botanical garden here, and among other trees planted a cedar of Libanus, which at present is one of the finest in the kingdom, being twelve feet in girth, at a yard from the ground. The other remarkable houses in this parish are, South Bailey-lodge, formerly the occasional residence of the great earl of Chatham, and latterly of the late alderman Skinner ; East Bailey-lodge, for some time the residence of lord Loughborough while Mr. Wedderburne ; Trent-place, with a park of about 200 acres, reclaimed from the chase by the late Sir Richard Jebb, M. D. : the house is a villa built after an Italian model. Forty-hall, built by Inigo Jones ; Lincoln-house, at Ponder's-end, now a school, but formerly occupied by the Fiennes, earls of Lincoln. That eminent antiquary and historian, Richard Gough, Esq. has long been, and is still, a resident in this place.

The New-river traverses with a very winding course this parish from north to south, and is carried across the stream, which, rising in the high grounds of the chase, proceeds in an easterly direction by the town of Enfield, forming the Wash, and soon after discharges itself into the Lea.

Besides those above mentioned, several other distinguished persons have at different times resided in this parish ; particularly, Philip earl of Pembroke, chancellor of Oxford, and afterwards, during the civil wars, a member of the House of Commons in the year 1649 ; Sir George Wharton, a noted astrologer and zealous royalist during the civil wars, created a baronet in 1677 by Charles II.



## GOARE HUNDRED.

## HARROW ON THE HILL.

THE town of Harrow, situated about ten miles from Tybourn-turnpike, gives its name to a very extensive parish, containing about 13,600 acres; of these about 1600 are waste, and the remainder is nearly equally divided between arable and pasture. The population of Harrow and its hamlets, including that of Pinner, where a separate register is kept, is about 1800.

The situation of Harrow, as its appellation imports, is lofty; it stands on one of the highest points of the ridge of gravel hills, that bounds the flat southern extremity of Middlesex; and its taper spire embosomed in trees, forms a very pleasing and conspicuous object from the surrounding villages. Its elevated and almost insulated site affords an extensive prospect on every side: to the east and south the whole length of the metropolis presents itself, with the dome of St. Paul's rising majestically above the cloud of smoke that usually invests the lower buildings: while the horizon is agreeably diversified by the easy swelling forms of the Surrey hills. The northern view, though not so comprehensive, is perhaps as pleasing as the other, exhibiting in the nearer distance the village of Stanmore, and the elegant seat of the marquis of Abercorn, beyond which ascends rapidly the high ground composing Harrow Weald. The scenes, however, to the west and south-west are, perhaps, the most interesting of any, and may be seen to the greatest advantage from the church-yard; they include the wild beauties of Roxeth common, the rich cultivation of the vale of Thames, the distant towers of Windsor-castle, and the wooded hills of Berks and Buckingham.

Harrow church, distinguished by its lofty spire, was founded by archbishop Lanfranc before the conquest, and a considerable part of the old edifice still remains: it was rebuilt about the fourteenth century. The most remarkable monuments which it contains are those of Sir Samuel Garth, M. D. the author of the ingenious and witty poem called the Dispensary; of J. Lyon, yeoman, founder of Harrow school; and of Dr. Sumner, the late head-master; whose epitaph, an elegant specimen of latinity, is the production of the learned Dr. Parr, one of his scholars.

The living of Harrow is a vicarage, in the gift of the lord of the manor, and under the peculiar jurisdiction of the archbishop of Canterbury. The great tithes belong to Christ-church college, Oxford.



The free-school at this place, which for some years past has ranked among the first of our public seminaries, was founded in the year 1590 by John Lyon, a yeoman of Preston, who before this period had been accustomed to appropriate a certain annual sum to teaching poor children. Harrow school rose into eminence under the administration of Dr. Thackeray: the learned Dr. Sumner, his successor, added considerably to its reputation; and though his premature death, which happened in the year 1771, in the 41st of his age, early deprived the public of the benefit of his abilities, yet he left behind him no dubious proofs of his skill, in his scholars, the bishop of Cloyne, Dr. Parr, Mr. Sheridan, and the late much-regretted Sir William Jones. The present master is Dr. Drury, under whom the school retains its reputation and numbers, which are usually about 150.

The most remarkable private building belonging to this parish is the house on the manor of Bentley, which was purchased about nine years ago by the marquis of Abercorn; who by making large additions and improvements has converted it into a noble mansion, wherein elegance and convenience are singularly united. The rooms are spacious, and adorned with some select antique busts, and several capital pictures, of which the most esteemed is the dream of St. Jerome by Parmegiano. The portraits exhibit some of the most illustrious individuals of the Hamilton family, and are painted by Sir Godfrey Kneller, Sir Joshua Reynolds, and Lawrence.

The pleasure-grounds and plantations occupy nearly 200 acres; and the elevated situation of the house gives it the command of a varied and extensive prospect.

On the brow of Harrow-hill, as you descend to Sunbury-common, Colonel Ironside has a small villa, with a beautiful garden and shrubbery.

The hamlet of *Pinner* is situated on an eminence about three miles to the north of Harrow, near the border of Hertfordshire, and had once a market, which has been long disused. Its chapel is a large old structure, finished in 1321, and having an embattled tower. The living is a perpetual curacy, under the vicar of Harrow. There is a small meeting-house of independents in this place.

The manor-house of Wembley, in the parish of Harrow, on the London side, is the present seat of Richard Page, Esq. Scarcely any situation so near the metropolis can vie with it in the charms of rural retirement; and it has lately undergone all the improvements of which such a spot is capable, from the fine taste of Mr. Repton, so well known as a layer-out of pleasure-grounds. A building of great apparent magni-



magnificence, but which is in reality only a kind of summer banqueting-house, has been erected on a fine eminence in the park, which commands an extensive prospect, and is itself a striking object from the road.

## H E N D O N.

THIS parish contains about 8200 acres, of which 300 are arable, 120 woodland, and the remainder pasture and meadow; the soil is for the most part clay with a mixture of gravel. The village is pleasantly situated, and of considerable extent, being divided into several hamlets or small clusters of houses, one of which, Golder's-hill, was for some time the residence of Dr. Akenfide, the author of a well-known poem "On the Pleasures of the Imagination." The number of inhabitants is estimated at about 1100. There are several opulent residents, and the neighbourhood is adorned with some fine seats.

The church is an old structure with a square embattled tower, a pleasing object to the surrounding district. It contains several monuments; among others, those of several members of the noble family of Powis, of Sir William Rawlinson, and of Edward Fowler, bishop of Gloucester. Here also were buried, James Parsons, M. D. assistant secretary for foreign correspondence to the Royal Society, and author of some treatises on natural history, and an Historical Enquiry into the Origin of the European Languages; and Sir William Ayloffe, for many years vice-president of the Society of Antiquaries, and one of its earliest members. The living is a vicarage, under the patronage of the lords of the manor.

At Hendon is an alms-house, founded in 1727, in consequence of a bequest of 2000*l.* made in 1681 by Robert Daniel, for the support of which an estate in Oxfordshire was at the same time purchased. It is for six men and four women. There is likewise a charity-school, at which seventy children are educated, forty of whom are allowed clothing. Mr. Willock, auctioneer, who was brought up in it, has laudably displayed his gratitude to the institution by the erection of some additional buildings. He possesses a pleasant seat and extensive grounds in his native village.

Mill-hill is situated on a fine eminence much higher than the ground at Hendon, and commands extensive views. It has several handsome villas with gardens and pleasure-grounds sloping from the hill, and is one of the most retired situations

within



within that distance of town, lying out of the great roads between East Barnet and Edgware, about a mile and a half from Hendon. In this place is a botanical garden, planted by the late Mr. Collinson, and still kept up by his son, M. Collinson, Esq.

### EDGWARE.

THE parish of Edgware contains about 1800 acres of land, of which scarcely more than a twentieth part is arable; the soil is a stiff clay. The number of houses is seventy-six, giving a population of about 340. The parish church is an old, low building, not worthy of notice; and the only private house deserving of mention, is one at Brockley-hill in the possession of W. Godfrey, Esq. It commands a very extensive prospect, and contains in the drawing-room some large pictures, which are said to have belonged to the collection of Charles I.

### STANMORE MAGNA.

THIS parish contains about 1400 acres, of which about 300 are arable, 850 meadow and pasture, and 250 commons and roads. The number of houses is 140, giving a population of about 630.

The parish church was built in the year 1632, at the expense of Sir John Wolffenholme, Knt. and contains several monuments of the family of its founder, and of that of the Drummonds. It has a venerable tower, clothed with ivy.

It is thought by Dr. Stukely that the old city of Sulloniaca was situated in this parish, not far from Brockley-hill, and it is certain that many Roman antiquities, such as coins, urns, rings, &c. have been formerly dug up in this neighbourhood.

The chief private buildings are, the house of the late G. Drummond, Esq. near Belmont, situated in an extensive park, and containing several royal and noble portraits, for the most part of the last century; the seat of J. Forbes, Esq. remarkable for some curious specimens of Hindoo sculpture, collected by Mr. Forbes during a residence at Bombay; and the seat of George Hemming, Esq. originally a banqueting-house, built by the duke of Chandos.

Stanmore used to be much distressed for water, its only supply being from a reservoir on the top of the hill; but the inhabitants some years ago sunk a well to the depth of 150 feet, which has afforded them a constant spring of good water.

STAN-



## STANMORE PARVA, or WHITECHURCH.

THIS parish contains about 1500 acres, of which 130 are arable, and the remainder meadow and pasture. The soil is for the most part a stiff clay.

The number of inhabited houses is eighty-one, giving a population of about 360.

It is at Canons in this parish that Mr. Brydges, afterwards duke of Chandos, about the year 1712 erected a mansion of extraordinary magnificence. It was built entirely of stone in the form of a large square, presenting one of its corners to the extremity of the grand avenue, in such a manner, that at a small distance the two visible sides appeared like a front of amazing extent. The profusion of busts, of statues, and marble ornaments of various kinds; of painted ceilings and staircases, and all the luxury of architecture, of vistas, lakes, canals, and terraces, consumed the enormous sum of 200,000*l*. James of Greenwich was the architect; and Dr. Alexander Blackwell, author of a treatise on agriculture, was director of the pleasure-grounds. In this palace the duke resided with all the state and splendour of a sovereign prince. The want of taste, however, and vanity displayed in this vast undertaking, provoked a severe criticism from Pope in the fourth of his Moral Essays, under the description of Timon's villa, the concluding lines of which have proved to be singularly prophetic:

“ Another age shall see the golden ear  
 “ Imbrown the slope, and nod on the parterre;  
 “ Deep harvests bury all his pride has plann'd,  
 “ And laughing Ceres reassume the land.”

For, on the death of the duke, the mansion, being supposed to demand an establishment disproportionate to the income of his successor, after many fruitless endeavours to dispose of it entire, was pulled down and sold piecemeal. The equestrian statue of George I. was removed from the park to its present position in Leicester-square; and the grand staircase now adorns the house of the earl of Chesterfield in May-fair. The present villa at Canons was built of part of the materials, by William Hallet, Esq. who purchased the park and demesne lands, and is now in the possession of Patrick O'Kelly, Esq. nephew of Denis O'Kelly, a character well known at Newmarket, and possessor of the famous horse Eclipse, whose remains are deposited in the park.

The



The magnificence, however, of the duke was not confined to his own mansion. He rebuilt about the year 1715 the parish church, and completed its internal ornaments in the year 1720. It was opened with great pomp on the 29th of August, for which occasion there is reason to suppose that Handel composed his sacred drama of Esther. The altar-piece is painted by Belluchi, the ceiling and walls by Laguerre. During the duke's residence at Canons, the church was celebrated for the perfection of its vocal and instrumental harmony. The hymns were composed by Handel, who officiated at Canons as chapel-master, and the morning and evening services were set to music by Pepusch; at the same time, the celebrated Desaguliers was rector. This vanity of devotion has not escaped the notice of the eminent poet above-mentioned :

“ And now the chapel's silver bell you hear,  
 “ That summons you to all the pride of prayer :  
 “ Light quirks of music, broken and uneven,  
 “ Make the soul dance upon a jig to heaven.  
 “ On painted ceilings you devoutly stare,  
 “ Where sprawl the saints of Verrio and Laguerre,  
 “ On gilded clouds in fair expansion lie,  
 “ And bring all Paradise before your eye.  
 “ To rest, the cushion and soft Dean invite,  
 “ Who never mentions hell to ears polite\*.”

Over the family vault, at the north end of the church, is a large chamber paved with marble, and containing several monuments of the Brydges family, especially that of James duke of Chandos, of whom we have been speaking.

#### ISLEWORTH HUNDRED.

#### TWICKENHAM.

**T**HIS parish contains about 1850 acres, of which 480 are arable, 150 fruit gardens, 490 pasture, 40 wood, and 690 common, stretching a considerable way upon Hounslow-heath. The soil for the most part is a sandy loam.

The number of houses is 611; of inhabitants, according to an accurate enumeration made in 1794, including lodgers, 3355; being five and a half to a house.

\* It is, however, to be observed, that this attack of Pope's upon a man of amiable qualities, and to whom he had been personally obliged, was so ill received by the public, that the bard made several attempts (though with little success) to cause it to be believed that the duke of Chandos was not alluded to in the character of Timon.



On the small river Crane, which runs through this parish, are erected some powder and oil mills, which are the only manufactories in the place.

But Twickenham is chiefly known for its fine situation on the bank of the Thames, opposite to the bold elevation and hanging woods of Richmond-hill; and itself forms an essential part of the prospect from the terrace, a view which for richness, cultivation, and perfect beauty, is unquestionably the first in Great Britain. On this account it has ever been a favourite resort of literary characters, and persons of fashion. The building most deserving of notice in this parish, is the celebrated villa of the late lord Orford at Strawberry-hill. It was originally a small lodging-house, for some time the residence of Colley Cibber, who there wrote his comedy of the Refusal. In the year 1747, the earl of Orford (then the Hon. Horace Walpole) purchased the house and surrounding grounds, and by the assistance of Mr. Bentley, fitted up the rooms in a pure Gothic style, from models and plans selected from our cathedrals and other buildings in the same mode of architecture. The propriety and good taste conspicuous through the whole work, render it a subject, not merely of admiration, but of study. Several curious and beautiful specimens of the fine arts were collected by the noble proprietor to adorn this his favourite residence; the chief of which are, portraits by Peter Oliver, Sir Joshua Reynolds, Sir Peter Lely, Zuccherò, Vandyke, and Hogarth; several antique busts, and more modern pieces of sculpture by Torregiano and Mrs. Damer; some valuable paintings of Holbein, and a well-chosen and extensive collection of prints, among which is a very interesting series of English portraits.

It ought not to be forgotten that about the year 1757, Mr. Walpole fitted up here a private printing-press, from which have issued, besides most of his own works, Bentley's *Lucan*, *Memoires de Grammont*, lady Temple's *Poems*, and several other smaller pieces.

Pope's villa, now occupied by lord Mendip, has, since his death, undergone several alterations and additions; there still remain, however, many relics of that great poet, particularly his favourite grotto—

“ Where ling’ring drops from mineral roofs distil,

“ And pointed crystals break the sparkling rill;

\* \* \* \* \*

“ Where, nobly pensive, St. John sat and thought;

“ Where British sighs from dying Wyndham stole,

“ And the bright flame was shot through Marchmont’s soul.”



Sir Godfrey Kneller, and the late Sir William Chambers, had each of them houses at Twickenham; as also the two celebrated restorers of experimental philosophy, lord Bacon and Robert Boyle; those exquisite actresses Mrs. Clive and Mrs. Pritchard; Fielding, the great novelist; and the witty, versatile, and profligate duke of Wharton.

### ISLEWORTH.

THIS parish contains about 2370 acres, the greater part of which is divided almost equally between arable and pasture: there are besides 14 acres occupied by nursery-men, 430 by market gardeners; and about 400 are waste, being part of Hounslow-heath. The soil is sand, gravel, and rich loam.

At Baberbridge in this parish are copper and brass mills, the property of the duke of Northumberland, but rented by the incorporated society of the mines royal; most of the ore manufactured here used to be procured from the Mendip-hills. At Isleworth are a considerable china manufactory, some extensive calico-grounds, and two large flour-mills.

There is a good wharf, at which a great quantity of coals are landed, and much gunpowder from the Hounslow mills is shipped to go down the river.

The chief trade of the parish, however, consists in the vast supply of vegetables which it sends from its numerous gardens to the metropolis, and which are for the most part conveyed by the Thames. Beside the usual articles, there are here extensive plantations of raspberries, which are raised chiefly for the use of the distillers, and conveyed to London in swing carts; such of the fruit as is intended for the table is carried by women, who come principally from Shropshire and Wiltshire. Each load consists of twelve gallons of three pints each, and is gathered by twelve women, one of whom afterwards carries it to Covent-garden market, a distance of ten miles, for which she receives three shillings and sixpence. The rate at which these women usually go with their burden, is near five miles an hour.

A very accurate statement of the population of this parish in October 1794, has been procured by Sir Joseph Banks; whence the following particulars have been selected:—The whole number of houses is 712; of these, 43 belong to gentlemen, 6 are farm-houses, 26 public houses, the remainder shops, cottages, &c. The inhabitants are 4190, of whom 171 are lodgers: of the stationary inhabitants 2223 are grown persons (982 males, 1241 females) and 1796 children (956 males, 840 females).



The village of Isleworth, which gives its name to the hundred, is delightfully situated on the Thames bank, at the mouth of the little river Crane; and has been, and still continues, the residence of many persons of rank. The principal building in the parish is *Sion-house*, a seat of the duke of Northumberland. It was formerly a convent of Bridgetines founded by Henry the Fifth; and the liberality of succeeding kings added largely to its revenues, so that at its dissolution in 1532 it was possessed of thirty-seven manors, besides tithes, rents, and other sources of emolument. When secularized it passed from the duke of Somerset to the duke of Northumberland; it afterwards returned by marriage to Charles duke of Somerset, and again soon after came into the possession of the noble family of Percy. The present mansion was repaired and fitted up at much cost by the late duke of Northumberland, who adorned it with several pieces of ancient sculpture from Italy, and with twelve Ionic columns, and sixteen pilasters of that rare and valuable species of marble called *verde antique*—a larger collection than is to be found in any other private building in Europe. The improvements in the house, and the elegant façade fronting the high road, were designed by Adam; the gardens and pleasure-grounds were laid out by Brown. In the year 1617 was born at Sion-house, Dorothy, daughter of Sir Robert Sidney, afterwards earl of Leicester, and the daughter of the earl of Northumberland; a lady afterwards rendered more illustrious as the celebrated Sacharissa of Waller, than by her high descent. She was married to the earl of Sunderland, and after the death of her husband resided in Isleworth.

In this parish also was born in 1676, Anthony Collins, the intimate friend of Locke, and author of a valuable work on liberty and necessity; but better known as the writer of a discourse on free-thinking, and some other publications on similar subjects.

The present duke of Marlborough and earl of Shrewsbury have each a house in this parish. That belonging to the former is called Sion-hill, and was built by the late earl of Holderness, to which the duke has added a well-furnished observatory.

The barons' army, headed by Simon de Montford, in the year 1263, encamped in Isleworth-park. The following year, the palace of the king of the Romans in this parish was burnt by a tumultuary army of the citizens of London; for which outrage they were afterwards obliged to pay 1000 marks by way of compensation.

On the 4th of August 1647, general Fairfax appointed his head-quarters at  
Isleworth,



Isleworth, where he received the parliamentary commissioners, sent for the purpose of securing the parliament from force and violence, and healing the diffensions between the city and army.

### H E S T O N.

THIS parish is about ten miles and a half in circumference, and contains nearly 2500 acres, of which number nearly one half are arable, 686 acres are common, and the remainder pasture and wood. The soil for the most part is a strong loam, and celebrated for producing wheat of an excellent quality: the bread for the royal household, previously to, and during, the reign of Elizabeth, was made of Heston wheat.

The population of this parish, according to an accurate enumeration made in the month of July 1794, by Sir Joseph Banks, was 1632 inhabitants, of which 151 were lodgers; of the resident inhabitants 745 were grown persons (368 males, and 377 females), and 736 children (351 males, 385 females); exclusive of 410 soldiers in Hounslow barracks, and 36 quartered in the Heston part of Hounslow village. The total number of houses, besides the workhouse, was 280: of which 17 were gentlemen's houses, 20 farm-houses, 18 public houses, and 225 shops and cottages.

The parish church is a Gothic structure, built chiefly of flints, with a handsome square stone tower at the west end. Hounslow chapel, situated also in this parish, is the only remaining part of an ancient priory built about the middle of the thirteenth century, and occupied by the brethren of the Holy Trinity.

The private edifices worthy of notice are Hounslow manor-house, the property of the Bulstrode family; and Osterly-house, built by Sir Thomas Gresham, who received here a visit from queen Elizabeth. This mansion, after having been the residence of lord chief justice Coke, and Sir William Waller, the celebrated parliamentary general; at length, about the beginning of this century, came into the possession of Sir Francis Child, an eminent London merchant. It was rebuilt and furnished with great magnificence by the late Robert Child, Esq. and his predecessor; and is now the property of lady Sarah Child, daughter of the earl of Westmoreland, and grand-daughter of Robert Child, Esq.

The house is situated in the centre of a finely-wooded park, about six miles in  
circum-



circumference. There are two large sheets of water, with an elegant stone bridge. A menagerie at this seat is famous for its collection of curious and beautiful foreign birds.

The town of Hounslow is situated on the great western road, partly in the parish of Heston, and partly in that of Isleworth. It had formerly a market and fair, granted to its proprietors, the brethren of the Holy Trinity. The market is discontinued; but it still enjoys a fair, held on Trinity Monday. The place is chiefly supported by its great thoroughfare, which gives subsistence to a number of public houses.

Hounslow-heath, a considerable part of which lies in Heston parish, is an extensive open tract, containing 4293 acres, infamous a few years ago for the many robberies committed on the great roads by which it is crossed, and noted in earlier times as a place of rendezvous for the military force of the country. In 1267, the earl of Gloucester, at the head of the London insurgents, encamped here, intending to give battle to the king; however, on the approach of the royal army, he retreated. During the civil wars, king Charles's army was entrenched here the day after the battle of Brentford, in 1642. On the 23d of November, the same year, it served as a place of muster to the army under the earl of Essex: and on the 3d of August 1647, there was a grand review of Fairfax's army, amounting to 20,000 men; on which occasion were present the speakers of both houses of parliament, and about one hundred members of the Commons. James II. also, in the year 1686, encamped his army on Hounslow-heath; where it continued till the revolution. Extensive barracks have lately been built on that part of the heath which is in Heston parish. The average value of the heath, if inclosed, is estimated at twenty shillings per acre.

On a stream communicating with the river Coln, are erected upon the heath large gunpowder and oil mills. The former have within a few years undergone several accidents by explosions; but the mischief on these occasions being only partial, they are supposed to be very lucrative to the proprietor. The oil-mills are accounted some of the most capital in England. They are confined to the making of linseed oil.



## ELTHORNE HUNDRED.

## GREENFORD MAGNA,

SO called from a ford over the Brent which runs through this parish, contains about 2000 acres besides roads; of these about 1250 are inclosed, 580 are in common fields, 96 inclosed woodlands, and about 65 waste. The proportion of grafs land to arable is as three to one; the soil a stiff clay.

The number of houses is 69, giving a population of about 310. The parish church, dedicated to the Holy Cross, is a small structure built chiefly of flints, with a low wooden spire at the west end.

## GREENFORD PARVA.

THIS parish, more usually known by the name of Perivale, contains about 700 acres, of which one-third is arable; the soil is chiefly clay, with a small mixture of gravel.

The number of houses is 5, giving a population of about 24.

The church is a small ancient structure, built of stone and flints, with a wooden tower and low turret at the west end.

## HANWELL.

THIS parish contains about 1200 acres, 120 of which are waste; the remainder is nearly equally divided between arable and pasture. The soil is clay.

The river Brent divides the parish, and the new Grand Junction canal forms its western boundary.

The number of houses is 107, giving a population of about 481.

The church is a small neat brick structure, of an oblong figure, terminated at the west end with a turret and cupola: it was rebuilt in the year 1782.

In this church-yard, September 13, 1786, was buried Jonas Hanway; whose life was a continued scene of active benevolence. Many useful institutions owe their being to his exertions, particularly the charity of the Marine Society. His numerous tracts, though directed to different objects, were the same in their great end, the promotion of virtue and happiness: besides these he published a curious

and



and interesting account of his travels through Russia and Persia. His most valuable and well-merited title, however, is that of the *Poor Man's Friend*.

## NORTHALL.

THE extent of this parish, according to a survey in the year 1670, is 1911 acres; about a third of which are arable, the remainder meadow. The soil is a deep clay.

On account of the badness of the roads, notwithstanding the expenses annually bestowed on repairs; and the total want of spring water before the year 1791 (when a well was sunk by archdeacon Eaton, the vicar); this parish has been deserted by the proprietors, and left wholly to the cultivators of the land.

The number of houses is 60, giving a population of about 270.

The parish church is a small Gothic structure built of flints, with a wooden tower at the west end.

In February 1782 was buried here Dr. Demainbray, of French extraction: he learnt the rudiments of mathematics and natural philosophy from Desaguliers; and afterwards read lectures on experimental philosophy at Edinburgh, Dublin, several of the French universities, and London. In 1768 he was appointed king's astronomer at Richmond, which place he held till his death. He was the first who observed the effects of electricity in quickening the growth of plants.

## BRENTFORD.

THE town of Brentford is situated on the Thames bank, at the mouth of the little river Brent. The parish is very small, containing only about 200 acres, of which 25 are arable. The soil is clay, gravel, and loam.

The number of houses in the parish is 270, giving a population of about 1215 persons. The whole district of *Old Brentford*, comprising the greater part of the town, is in the parish of Ealing.

At this place the elections for Middlesex are held; on which account it is considered as the county town, though destitute of a hall or other building for the transaction of public business. The hustings are erected at a place called the Butts.

The chapel of Brentford is an appendage to the church of Hanwell, the rector of



of which has the appointment of a curate here; which office was once filled by the celebrated John Horne Tooke, since become so conspicuous in the political world, as a strenuous opposer of the court party; and in literature, as a writer on philosophical grammar.

In the year 1016 the Danes were totally defeated at this place with great slaughter, by Edmund Ironside: and on the 12th November 1642, Brentford was again made the scene of action, in an engagement between the royal army and the troops of the parliament: the king's forces succeeded in driving their adversaries from the town, and made several prisoners; but the next day, on the arrival of a reinforcement from London, retired to Kingston. Patrick Ruthven, earl of Forth, had the chief command of the royalists in this action, and for his good conduct in the battle was created earl of Brentford.

The manufactures in this parish are some turpentine works, and a considerable starch-house. There is also some malt made, and a large malt distillery. The latter was erected by Mr. Percival Hart, who was obliged to build the wall of an uncommon height, in order to prevent the mill-fails from frightening the horses that passed on the road—a precaution which is wanted in many other places!

In the present year, 1797, the Grand Junction Canal Company completed their canal into the river Brent, and thence into the Thames.



## U X B R I D G E,

ONE of the market-towns of Middlesex, is situated on the river Coln, which separates it from Buckinghamshire, and is about fifteen miles distant from the metropolis. It is a hamlet under the parish of Hillingdon, and is governed by two bailiffs. The town consists of one principal street, and a few houses lately built below the church. It is provided with a handsome and spacious new market-house, erected on Ionic columns, with a fine turret clock and bell. The large room over it is a repository for corn, of which commodity a great quantity is sold in this market. The market-day is Thursday, and a good deal of business is done at it in supplying a populous neighbourhood with necessaries. The town is provided with several good shops and public houses. The streams from the Coln are employed to turn a number of large flour-mills, which produce what may be called the staple commodity of the place. Some malt is also made here; and there are considerable



works for the manufacturing of white rope, twine and packthread. The Grand Junction canal, which passes close to the west end of the town, affords it the convenience of water-carriage. There is a brick bridge of five arches over the Coln, and the town is supplied with its water from this river by means of carts. The pump-water is not drinkable. The church or chapel is an ancient structure built in the reign of Henry VI. The church-yard, given by an earl of Derby in 1576, is at some distance from it. Uxbridge is noted for the fine trout and other fish of its river, and for the goodness of its bread, particularly rolls. It was the place where a treaty was carried on between king Charles I. and the parliament during the civil wars. It gives the title of earl to the family of Paget.

### H I L L I N G D O N

IS a village consisting of a few scattered houses. It has a venerable ancient church, in the yard of which stands a remarkable yew-tree, reckoned to be 200 years old, and protected by a paling round it. The salubrity of this parish is attested by the tomb-stones in the church-yard. Between Hillingdon and Uxbridge are the fine seat and park of the marchioness of Rockingham. Mr. Hemings has a seat close to Hillingdon; and there are several pleasant villas in the neighbourhood.

### SPELTHORNE HUNDRED.

### T E D D I N G T O N,

**A**NCIENTLY *Todynton* and *Totyngton*, is a pleasant village on the Thames, beyond Twickenham, about twelve miles from London. The parish contains about 500 acres of arable, and 50 of pasture, besides common: the soil sandy and light. The manor of Teddington formerly belonged to Westminster-abbey, but at the dissolution was leased out by the crown. It is now in the possession of George Peters, Esq. The manor-house appears to have been erected by the celebrated lord Buckhurst, in 1602. Several persons of eminence have resided at different times in this village—the earl of Leicester, in 1570; William Penn, the quaker, in 1688; Sir Orlando Bridgman; and that excellent philosopher and divine, Dr. Stephen Hales, who was minister here fifty-one years, and refused to quit his  
retreat,



retreat, employed in a series of useful pursuits, for any higher preferment. His *vegetable statics* have perpetuated his name as an experimental philosopher, and his discovery and introduction of the ventilator as an ingenious and philanthropical mechanist. Dr. Cofens, his successor, was distinguished as a poet. The parish church is a small brick structure, built at different periods. Dr. Hales added the north aisle, and rebuilt the tower. The most remarkable monuments are those of Sir Orlando Bridgman, of Mrs. Woffington the actresses, of Dr. Hales, and of Flitcroft the architect. The living is a curacy, in the patronage of the lord of the manor, and the Bridgman family.

Robert Udney, Esq. has a seat in this parish, containing a valuable collection of pictures, chiefly of the old Italian masters. The number of houses in Teddington is 118: of inhabitants, about 580. The population has been gradually increasing. The people are chiefly engaged in husbandry.

## H A M P T O N.

THIS is one of the pleasant villages on the Thames, decorated with a good church, and consisting of a group of houses, chiefly the residence of persons in humble life. It is much frequented in summer for the recreation of angling. Its principal ornament is the elegant villa of the late Roscius of the English stage, David Garrick, Esq. who adorned it with all the taste which distinguished his character, and testified his veneration for the memory of our great dramatic poet Shakespeare, by erecting a temple containing his statue—a beautiful object from the river.

*Hampton-court*, in its neighbourhood, is well known as the site of one of the most magnificent palaces belonging to the English crown, and, together with its gardens and park, filling up a large bend of the river between Hampton and Teddington. This structure was begun by the ambitious and splendid minister, cardinal Wolsey, in 1514. He rendered it so stately, that it could not with safety, in the tyrannical reign of Henry VIII. be inhabited by a subject; whence he presented it to his lordly master, who made it one of his favourite residences. It was for a time the prison of Charles I., and went to decay under his successors, till William III. raised it to new grandeur. He employed Sir Christopher Wren to convert it into a modern palace, which he effected so as to give it more of the appearance of a man-



sion of royalty than any other of the king's houses, Windsor excepted. Its front towards the garden is 330 feet in extent; and that to the river is but a few feet shorter. The apartments are numerous, and were fitted up with great splendour, according to the taste of the time when they were occupied by the royal family, which is now long elapsed. It has lately, indeed, afforded a hospitable residence to the kindred branch of the house of Orange, expelled from Holland by intestine troubles. Of the ancient building, little more remains than the stately Gothic hall, which was fitted up as a theatre by queen Caroline, but only a few times used. The gardens of Hampton-court remain under the same formal disposition that was given them by the taste of king William. The park, called Busby-park, is extensive, and contains a fine grove of horse-chestnuts extending from side to side. It is well stocked with finely-flavoured deer and other game. The house of the ranger (now the duke of Clarence) is spacious, and forms a handsome square. There is a wooden bridge across the Thames leading from the palace to East Moulsey.



#### S U N B U R Y.

PROCEEDING up the river, the fine village of Sunbury next appears, inhabited by a number of persons of fortune, on whose employment the lower class depend. A long range of elegant houses and grounds decorate the banks of the Thames; and the handsome tower of the church adds dignity to the scene. Near Sunbury is the seat and extensive park of Sir Thomas Musgrave, called Kenton-park. A wide common stretches from hence to Ashford, crossed by the high road to Stains. On the Sunbury side of this common are several agreeable residences.



#### S H E P P E R T O N.

ABOUT three miles further, the village of Shepperton enlivens the bank of the Thames. It forms an agreeable group of houses of the humbler kind, intermixed with trees, together with an ancient church of suitable appearance. An enclosed piece of ground in this parish, called *War-clofe*, by its name, and the bones and spurs which have been found in it, is indicated to have been a field of battle; and at a small distance is the site of a Roman camp. A small hamlet called *Hawford*, between Shepperton and Walton-bridge, affords a beautiful river situation, by its command



command of two reaches made by the stream. The opposite grounds of Oatlands form a delightful prospect from the Middlesex shore in these parts. *Shepperton-green*, about a mile northwards, has an assemblage of buildings extending to *Littleton*. Near this place is a feat and park belonging to Mr. Wood.

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L A L E H A M

IS the next village on the river bank; which, however, can boast none of the decorations so profusely bestowed on many others. It is a small mean place, with a half-ruined church, and is only rendered agreeable by a few tolerable houses on the water-side. Anglers are its chief summer visitants.

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S T A I N S, or STANES.

THIS market-town is situated on the extremity of the county, about seventeen miles west from London, near the junction of Middlesex, Surry, and Buckinghamshire. It is said to take its name from the boundary stone of the jurisdiction of London, which is placed near it. Stains is a market-town of moderate size and business, participating in the corn, flour, and malt trade. Its market is on Friday. A good brick building has lately been erected for a market-house. The town is governed by two constables and four headboroughs. Its situation on the great west road affords support to a number of inns; one of which, on the river, near the bridge, is furnished with very pleasant walks and gardens. The bridge is a handsome stone structure of three arches, lately erected in place of the former wooden one. The river in this part is thickly planted on its banks and islands with osiers for the use of the basket-makers—the resort of multitudes of the swallow tribe in summer and autumn. The parish church is large and ancient, situated at some distance from the town. This part of the county stretching in an uninteresting and rather sterile flat to Hounslow and down to the Thames, was anciently the forest or warren of Stains, but disforested by Henry III.



## S U R R Y.

## BRIXTON HUNDRED.

## R O T H E R H I T H E.

**T**HIS place, commonly called Redriffe, is one of the chief suburbs of the metropolis on the south-eastern side ; and is connected to the Borough by a continued line of buildings. The land in this parish that is not occupied by houses is about 470 acres ; of which forty are employed by market gardeners, and the remainder is principally laid down for pasture : the soil is a rich marsh, for the most part well drained ; on which account, and the flux and reflux of the tide in the common sewers, few situations near London are reckoned more healthy.

The situation of this parish on the bank of the Thames, naturally draws the chief of the capital and industry of its inhabitants towards employments immediately connected with maritime affairs ; and accordingly, the whole extent of the river-side is occupied by eleven dock-yards, at which are built East India ships, and smaller merchantmen ; and numerous warehouses belonging to tradesmen and artificers, who send large supplies of rigging and provision to the navy.

During the last hundred years this parish has considerably more than doubled its numbers, and it still experiences a rapid increase. The present number of houses is estimated at about 1600, giving a population of nearly 8800.

The parish church is a brick building, with a handsome stone spire at the west end, erected in the year 1715. In the church-yard was buried on the 29th of December 1784, in the 21st year of his age, prince Lee Boo, son of Abba Thulle, king of one of the Pelew Islands ; well known to the world by Mr. Keate's elegant and interesting narrative of the generous treatment experienced by the crew of the Antelope, which in August 1783 was wrecked off that island. The young prince accompanied captain Wilson to England, and soon after his arrival was carried off by the small-pox ; the East India company, to whom the Antelope belonged, erected a monument over his grave, in grateful remembrance of his father's kindness. The living is a rectory in the patronage of Clare-hall, Cambridge. There is a free-school in the parish for the education of seamen's children.



## L A M B E T H.

THE parish of Lambeth is situated on the side of the Thames, and opposite to Westminster. It is about sixteen miles in circumference, and contains 2942 acres; of these the greater part are arable; the pasture and meadow land is the next in quantity; the market gardeners and nursery-men occupy about 300 acres; the same number are waste, and thirteen are taken up with other plantations.

The soil consists for the most part of gravel; and sand and near the borders of Croydon parish a well has lately been sunk to the depth of 300 feet in an unvarying stratum of argillaceous earth.

The building of Westminster-bridge has greatly contributed to the rapid increase of population in this parish. At the beginning of the present century, the number of houses was 1400: in 1778, according to actual enumeration, they had increased to 2270: in October 1788, they amounted to 3759; and at Michaelmas 1791, to 4030; giving a population of 24,780. Ever since the commencement of the parish register in the year 1539, the burials have uniformly exceeded the baptisms; of late years, however, the proportion has been considerably diminishing.

The chief trade of Lambeth consists in the importation of deal, and other foreign timber, for the consumption of the capital and suburbs: almost the whole bank of the river, belonging to this parish, is occupied by timber wharfs, containing vast stores, and the sources of prodigious wealth to the inhabitants. Besides this inlet to wealth and population, there are several considerable manufactories, particularly some large distilleries and potteries at Vauxhall, Messrs. Beaufoy's extensive vinegar works; Mrs. Coade's manufactory of artificial stone, which is cast in moulds and burnt, and is applied to many parts of ornamental architecture with success, being cheaper than carved work, and having been found to bear the frost and wet without sustaining any injury. On the river side is a high tower for the purpose of making patent shot, the excellence of which consists in its being more spherical than common shot: the exactness of shape is produced by causing the melted metal to fall 123 feet through the air before it reaches the water, whereas in the common manufactories the metal scarcely falls a yard before reaching the water, in consequence of which the globules being yet soft are very apt to be injured in their form. A manufactory has also been established by Messrs. Boulton, Morgan, and Co. under the title of the Woollen Yarn Company, in which every part of the clothing pro-  
cesses



cefs is carried on by machinery ; they confine themselves to the making of coarse cloths for the fupply of America and the Weft Indies, and employ about 500 people, 200 of which are children\*.

In the parifh of Lambeth, near the river, is fituated the palace of the archbifhops of Canterbury, a very large irregular pile, exhibiting the architecture of different ages from the 13th century to the prefent time. The palace is furnifhed with a valuable library of books, founded by archbifhop Bancroft, and increafed by his fucceffors, efpecially Sheldon, Tennifon, and Secker. Adjoining to this is the manufcript library, containing the registers of the fee of Canterbury, and the collections of archbifhop Tennifon, Henry Wharton, and S. Carew earl of Totnefs. The different rooms and galleries alfo contain an interefting collection of portraits of Englifh clergy and other diftinguifhed perfons.

Previous to the Reformation, the great tower, called the Lollards' tower, was a place of confinement for ecclefiaftical offenders : it ftill contains a fmall room called the prifon, wainfcotted with thick oaken boards, and furnifhed with feveral large iron rings fixed in the wall, for the purpofe of fecuring the prifoners. Queen Elizabeth alfo ufed frequently to commit ftate prifoners to the cuftody of the archbifhop, particularly the popifh bifhops Tunftall and Thirlby, the earls of Effex and Southampton, lords Stourton and Henry Howard, brother of the duke of Norfolk.

Hubert Walter, who was here in 1198, is the firft archbifhop of Canterbury, who is known to have refided here, though many metropolitan decrees before this period are dated at Lambeth.

This palace has feveral times experienced the weight of popular fury, efpecially in Wat Tyler's rebellion, when the Effex mob committed great devaftations on the furniture, library, and registers, and put to death archbifhop Sudbury. When Laud refided here, at the beginning of the civil commotions between the king and parliament, the palace was attacked by the London apprentices, who were, however, repulfed without doing much mifchief. A fhort time after it was converted by the Commons into a fortrefs and ftate prifon. The laft outrage that threatened it, was during the riots of 1780 ; by the timely arrival, however, of the foldiers it efaped any injury.

The park and gardens contain about thirteen acres, and have been laid out with

\* This work has fince been difcontinued.



much taste by the present archbishop. Against the palace wall are two white fig-trees of an extraordinary size, and producing very fine fruit, said to have been planted by cardinal Pole.

Adjoining to the palace is the parish church, which is built of flints mixed with stone and brick; it contains the monuments of several individuals of the noble family of Howard; of some of the archbishops; of Elias Ashmole, the celebrated antiquary; and John Tradescant, an inhabitant of this parish, and one of the first persons in the kingdom who established a botanical garden: he visited a great part of Europe and Africa in search of new plants; and Linnæus has expressed his sense of the services rendered by him to the science of botany, by calling a genus of plants after his name (*Tradescantia*). Besides his collection of plants, he formed a museum of other rarities and natural curiosities, of which in the year 1656 his son published a catalogue. John Tradescant the younger left his collections to Elias Ashmole, by whom they were presented to the university of Oxford. Ambrose Phillips, author of pastorals, odes, and several small poetical pieces, died at his house near Vauxhall in this parish in 1749.

Several places of public amusement have at various times existed in this parish. About the beginning of the century a house of this kind was opened in Lambeth-walk, called Lambeth-wells; the avowed reason of which was on account of a spring of mineral water that was sold here. Monthly concerts were also performed, and lectures read in natural and experimental philosophy. The Wells at length becoming a public nuisance, the premises were let to a methodist preacher.

These were succeeded about the middle of the century by Cuper's-gardens, having formerly belonged to the earl of Arundel; and being afterwards opened to the public, and rented by one Cuper, who had been his gardener: they were for some time esteemed a very fashionable place of resort, being occasionally visited by the prince and princess of Wales. The entertainments were fireworks, illuminations, and music, especially some admirable performances on the harp by one Jones. The gardens were shut up in 1753.

On the decline of Cuper's, the Spring-gardens of Vauxhall rose into notice; being at first leased and afterwards purchased of George Doddington, Esq. by Jonathan Tyers, in whose representatives they are still vested: Vauxhall is much frequented during the summer season by fashionable parties, and is celebrated for the excellence of its concert: indeed on a fine evening the crowds of well-dressed  
company



company that fill its illuminated walks and magnificent saloons, evince the strength and efficacy of its claim to the public support.

Astley's amphitheatre for the exhibition of feats of horsemanship, musical interludes, rope-dancing, &c. was established in this parish in the year 1768: it was at first an open circus, but is at present fitted up with the conveniencies of the regular theatres.

Two useful public charities are also situated in Lambeth: the Asylum for the reception of female orphans, instituted in 1758; and the Westminster Lying-in-hospital, founded in 1765.

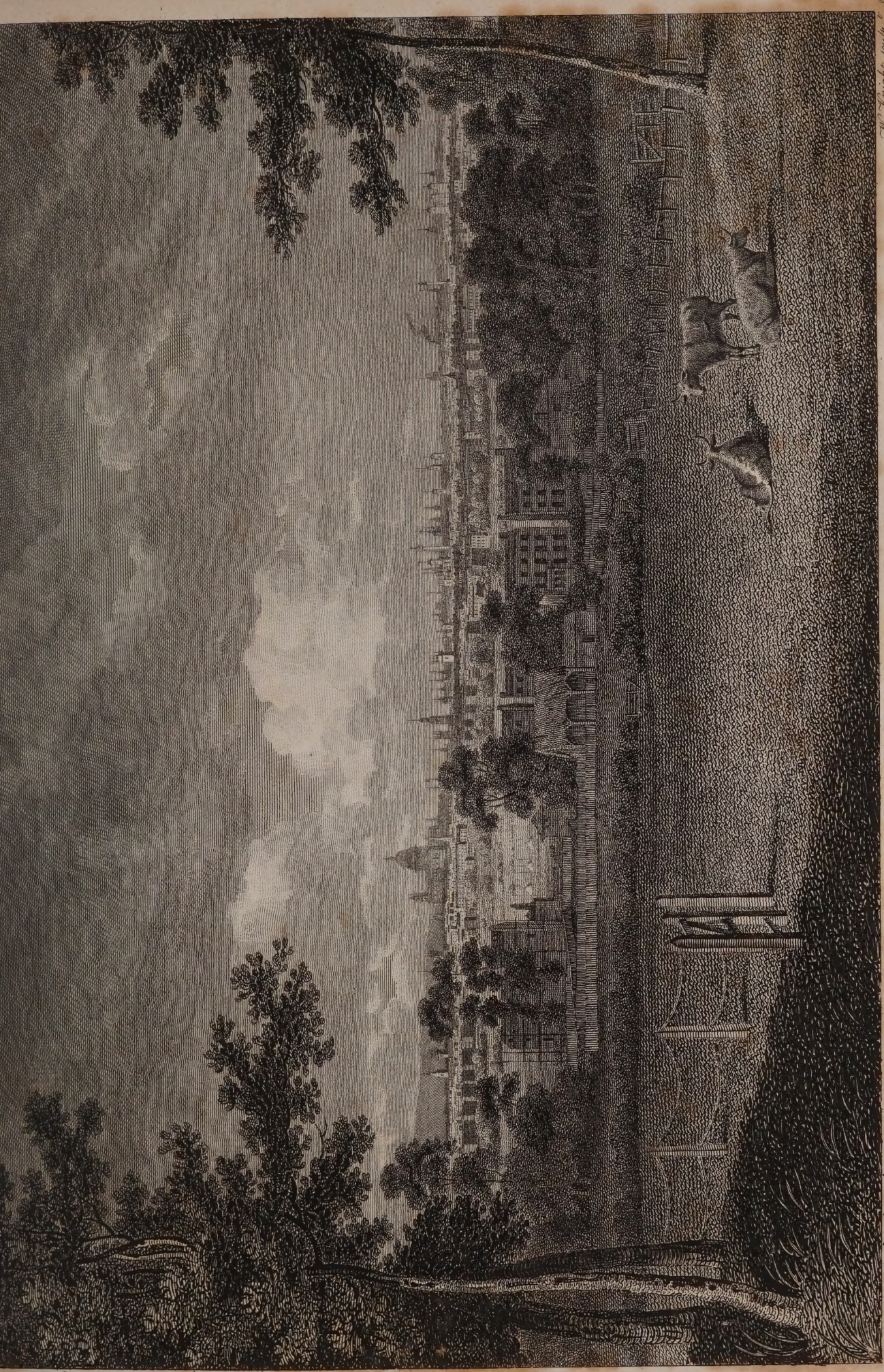
### C A M B E R W E L L.

THIS parish is of considerable extent, and is divided in nearly an equal proportion between arable, pasture, and garden-ground. The soil is in general fertile, and its neighbourhood to the metropolis renders the supply of manure plentiful and upon easy terms. The number of houses, including the hamlets of Peckham and Dulwich, is about 770, giving a population of nearly 4000.

The parish church was erected about the year 1520, and is built of flints and rough stone, with a small embattled tower at the west end. It has some rude painted windows, consisting of portraits and arms, and principally relating to the Muschamp family. Within the church are monuments of the Skynners, Scotts, and Bowyers, with many others. The living is a vicarage, in the gift of Joseph Windham, Esq. There is a newly-erected chapel of ease in Camberwell.

This village is adorned with a great number of elegant houses of late date, the residence of opulent merchants, &c. A favourite situation is Denmark-hill, an eminence on the high road to Dulwich. Further on is a terrace affording a beautiful view of the Surry hills. It is connected with a long grove of trees, proceeding from the village near the pleasant tavern and bowling-green called the Grove-house. On the side of this grove are the extensive pleasure-grounds and gardens of Dr. Lettsom, enriched with a great variety of exotic plants, and containing many objects of curiosity. From the higher part of the grounds bursts out a spring, adjoining to which is erected a convenient bath. A fish-pond first receives the water, and transmits it to the village, where it is applied to various domestic uses. The annexed south view of London was taken, by Dr. Lettsom's permission, from the paddock near his house.





W. Knight sculp.

C. Davies del.

**VIEW of LONDON.**

*from Camberwell.*

*Published March 31, 1797 by J. Stockdale Piccadilly.*







In the hamlet of Dulwich is situated Dulwich-college. This institution was founded in the year 1613 by Edward Alleyn, one of the most eminent actors of his time: as proprietor of the Fortune theatre, and keeper of the royal bear-garden, he gained a considerable fortune; the greater part of which he appropriated to the erection of this college: the establishment consists of a master, warden, and four fellows; twelve scholars, and six poor aged men, and as many women. The building is composed of a front and two wings, forming three sides of a quadrangle, containing, besides the necessary apartments and offices, a chapel, serving as a chapel of ease to the parish church, and frequented by the inhabitants of the hamlet of Dulwich. The college also contains a library and picture-gallery; in the former are some scarce books and curious manuscripts; in the latter are portraits of Drayton the poet, Sir Martin Frobisher, several of the Lovelaces, and some of the chief actors of the last century. The situation of Dulwich is low, but rural and pleasant; and it contains several elegant villas.

At Peckham are two meeting-houses for the anabaptists and presbyterians; of the latter congregation the celebrated Samuel Chandler was some time minister. This village is agreeably situated, and affords fine prospects towards Greenwich and Deptford.

#### B A T T E R S E A.

THIS parish is situated by the Thames, about three miles from Westminster-bridge. The greater part of its land is nearly equally divided between arable and pasture; the remainder, consisting of almost the whole of Wandsworth-common, and a considerable share of Clapham-common, is waste. The market gardeners occupy above 300 acres, and are particularly celebrated for raising cabbages and asparagus. The soil is sandy, and requires a good deal of rain. The manor, which was long in the St. John family, is now possessed by lord Spencer. The number of houses is 360, giving a population of about 2160.

A house called *York-house*, by the water-side, was built by Lawrence Booth, archbishop of York, as a residence for his successors when called to London, and, with an estate adjoining, was annexed to that see. It has long been only occupied by tenants. *Bolingbroke-house*, the residence of that family, was in great part pulled down in 1763, when the estate was alienated; but a few of the rooms remain,



among which is one said to have been a favourite apartment of the most distinguished person of that house.

The parish church is a modern structure, situated on the bank of the Thames: it is built of brick, and has a small spire at the west end. The principal monuments are those of the several individuals of the St. John family, particularly a fine one by Roubilliac, to the memory of the celebrated lord Bolingbroke, who was buried here, December 18, 1751. There is also a singular monument of Sir Edward Wynter, a remarkable character. The living of Battersea is a vicarage, in the gift of earl Spencer, the lord of the manor. On the site of Bolingbroke-house was erected, by Mr. Fowler, a few years ago, a horizontal windmill of great powers, and on a new construction, for the purpose of expressing oil: it is at present applied to the grinding of corn, for the use of a large distillery established on the spot. The great wheel is moved by ninety-six vertical float boards, instead of four sails, as in the common windmill.

#### C L A P H A M.

THE land in this parish is estimated at 1120 acres, the greater part of which is pasture; the soil for the most part is light and gravelly.

The number of houses is 384, that of the inhabitants about 2700, being seven to a house; an estimate which, though high, coincides with an actual enumeration made here in the year 1788.

The village of Clapham is situated about four miles south of Westminster-bridge. It is a very favourite country residence of some of the most eminent bankers, merchants, and tradesmen in London; and in consequence has been of late years much improved. The common, which some years ago was a barren swamp, is now converted into a delightful pleasure-ground, by the subscriptions of the inhabitants, and the superintendence and good taste of Christopher Baldwin, Esq., who repaired the roads, and ornamented it with a variety of native and foreign trees, so as to give it the air of a park. The value of land has advanced in an equal proportion with the improvement of the parish; in proof of which it may be mentioned that no less than 5000*l.* has been given for fourteen acres.

The old church stood on an eminence near the Kingston road. The south aisle of  
it

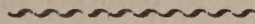


it still remains, and is kept up to preserve some costly monuments to the memory of Sir Richard Atkins and his family. There is likewise a memorial of Dr. Lister, one of the physicians to queen Anne, and well known to naturalists by his work on conchology.

The new church, opened in 1776, is a brick building, with a small dome and turret. The living is a rectory, in the patronage of the lord of the manor.

Dr. Brady, the same who, in conjunction with Tate, executed a metrical version of the Psalms, was rector of Clapham about the beginning of this century; and was succeeded by Anthony Blackwall, the author of some popular dissertations on the sacred classics.

There is a large meeting-house belonging to a very opulent congregation of presbyterian dissenters.



## S T R E A T H A M.

THE land in this parish is chiefly arable, with a clayey soil. The number of houses is 265, giving a population of about 1590.

One of the manors in this parish belongs to the duke of Bedford, whence he derives the title of Baron Howland of Streatham.

This village, like most others round the metropolis, is adorned by villas belonging to the London merchants, and persons of fashion: of these, one deserves notice, as having been formerly the residence of Henry Thrale, Esq. in whose time it was often graced by the presence of Dr. Johnson, Sir Joshua Reynolds, Edmund Burke, David Garrick, Oliver Goldsmith, and others of the chief literati of the last age. It is now the property of Gabriel Piozzi, Esq. who married Mr. Thrale's widow.

The church has been built at different periods. Its tower, supporting a small spire, is a conspicuous object for several miles around. It contains several tombs and monuments, of which none deserve notice so much as two tablets with Latin inscriptions, written by Dr. Johnson; one to the memory of Mr. Thrale, the other to that of Mrs. Salusbury, mother to Mrs. Thrale, now Mrs. Piozzi. It may be doubted, however, whether propriety has not been sacrificed to the ostentation of learning, in recording the lives and characters of two persons in their situations, in a dead language. The living of Streatham is a rectory, in the patronage of the duke of Bedford. The celebrated Dr. Hoadly, bishop of Bangor, was presented to  
this



this living in the year 1710, by Mrs. Howland, without any previous personal acquaintance with him, but from an esteem of his character and political principles.

There is a mineral cathartic water in this parish, discovered in 1660, and still held in esteem, though there are no accommodations on the spot for drinking it. Considerable quantities of it are said to be sent to the London hospitals.

### T O O T I N G.

THIS village is situated on the Epsom road, about six miles from Westminster-bridge, and is divided into Upper and Lower.

The greater part of the land in the parish is arable; the soil, gravel mixed with clay: the number of houses is 150, giving a population of about 900. There are several handsome villas, belonging to residents in London. Besides the church, which is a small building with a low circular tower and spire, there is a meeting-house lately erected for the use of the presbyterian dissenters. The living is a rectory, under the patronage of the present incumbent.

### M E R T O N.

THE soil in this parish varies from light and sandy to a stiff clay. The land, however, is for the most part arable. The number of houses is 116, giving a population of about 696. In the year 1130 was built here Merton-abbey, an institution of considerable note in its time. In this house, in the year 1236, a parliament was held, by which were enacted the statutes which take their name from this place. Here also was concluded the peace between Henry III. and the dauphin of France; and hither Hubert de Burgh fled for sanctuary when he fell under the king's displeasure. During the civil wars, Merton-abbey became one of the parliament's garrisons. It has since gone so fast to decay, that the only part of the building which remains, is an east window of the chapel. The site of the abbey is, however, occupied by two calico-grounds and a copper-mill, which find employment for nearly a thousand persons. The parish church is a long narrow structure, built of flints. It was erected early in the 12th century by Gilbert Norman, the founder of the abbey, and appears to have undergone no material alteration. It contains monuments of the Robinsons, Stapyltons, and other families. The living is a rectory, belonging to a lay impropriator, who puts in a curate.



## W I M B L E D O N.

THE whole extent of this parish is estimated at 2800 acres; of which about 800 are arable, 1000 pasture, 100 meadow, 400 common, and 500 wood. The soil is various, consisting chiefly of sand and clay, with black moor earth in the low meadows: the springs lie very near the surface, and in consequence much of the land is swampy.

The population of the parish has much increased during the present century: the number of houses is 230, of inhabitants about 1380.

The Wandle, a small stream, and one of the numerous tributaries of the Thames, flows through this parish, on whose banks are some considerable copper-mills, extensive calico-printing works, and a manufacture of japan-ware.

Wimbledon-park, the property of lord Spencer, contains about 1200 acres, laid out with great taste by the celebrated Brown. There is no adequate mansion to this extensive pleasure-ground, the manor-house having been burnt down in the year 1785; some of the offices were, however, preserved, and have since been fitted up so as to serve for an occasional retirement to his lordship's family.

In the month of August 1796, a well was sunk here to the depth of 563 feet. The following account of the strata was communicated by Mr. Hoffack, the director of the work, by the order of earl Spencer:

The first 70 feet were of an ochery red clay, alternating with sand, and abounding so much with land springs as to occasion the necessity of stopping them out with a circular wall of clay a foot thick; by which means the rest of the work was executed without any trouble from water.

From 70 to 80—blue flaty clay, mixed with pyrites.

From 80 to 100—light sandy clay, among which was found a large stone nearly the width of the well; from which, on being broken, gushed out nearly a pail-full of clear water.

From 100 to 140—blue flaty clay, of various shades of colour and degrees of hardness.

From 140 to 192—light-coloured shivery clay mixed with pyrites.

From 192 to 396—hard blue clay, with various bands of pyritous stones: the air became so contaminated as to require from this period to the finishing of the well, the constant employment of one man at an air-pump.

From



From 396 to 425—the earth rather lighter, and abounding with large masses of pyrites, and smaller fragments interspersed through the earth.

From 425 to 443—hard and flaty clay, with a little water.

443, 444—hard rock.

From 444 to 466—flaty clay.

From 466 to 467½—hard rock.

From 467½ to 536—blue flaty clay, alternating with sand, and mixed with pyrites.

From 536 to 542—hard blue clay, with cockle-shells, coaly matter, and pyrites.

From 542 to 554—hard blue clay mixed with pebbles.

From 554 to 558—two strata of shelly limestone.

From 558 to 560—red clay.

After this a hole about 2 feet deep was bored with an auger; and the water, mixed with sand, rose so rapidly, that in the space of an hour it attained the height of 300 feet, and by degrees ascended within 114 feet of the surface, where it became stationary. The depth of the well was diminished 160 feet by the influx of sand from the bottom; and the water is very clear, white, and soft. It may also be remarked, that on the south side of Wimbledon through Coombe-wood, the springs rise very copiously and in great numbers to the surface. Near Coombe-farm, the admired cottage residence of John Dawes, Esq. banker, is the conduit erected by cardinal Wolsey, still in perfect repair, which conveys water under the Thames to Hampton-court. Not far from this conduit is the retired and rural seat of the Hon. Wilbraham Tollemache, the ancient manor-house of Coombe, of which he is the lord.

The ancient manor-house, built nearly on the same site with the mansion-house belonging to the park, was the residence of various persons of note, possessors of the manor; among whom were Sir Christopher Hatton, lord Burleigh (who here entertained queen Elizabeth for three days), Henrietta Maria, queen of Charles I., general Lambert, Digby earl of Bristol, and Sir Theodore Janssen. The house was pulled down and rebuilt by the dutchess of Marlborough, from whom the property came to the Spencer family.

The church is a neat modern structure, with a handsome spire covered with copper; containing the tombs of Sir Richard Wynne of Gwedir, Caernarvonshire; of lord Wimbledon and his family; of John Hopkins, Esq. commonly known by

the









*W. Angus sculp.*

VIEW OF MOUNT APPARAT

*W. Angus del.*



the name of Vulture Hopkins ; and of Sir Theodore Janffen, who was deeply engaged in the celebrated South-sea speculation. The rectory belongs to the dean and chapter of Worcester. The living is a curacy, under the jurisdiction of the archbishop of Canterbury. The neighbourhood of the common is adorned by several elegant villas, particularly one which lately belonged to Monf. de Calonne, and is at present the property of earl Gower : the Right Hon. Henry Dundas also has a house in this parish. On the south side of Wimbledon is Mount Ararat, the retired and beautiful residence of Edward Clarke, Esq. The annexed view exhibits the mansion with the two green-houses at the extremities ; which is so contrived, that doors can be opened in every room throughout the building into the green-house at each end ; which in the summer-time has a pleasing effect, and in the winter affords a warm and extensive walk, without being exposed to the weather.

At the south-west angle of Wimbledon-common is a circular encampment, with a single ditch, very perfect. Camden supposes it to have been the site of an engagement between Ceaulin king of the West Saxons, and Ethelbert king of Kent, in 568.

#### W A N D S W O R T H.

THE land in this parish is divided nearly equally between arable and pasture, including, under the former, 218 acres occupied by market gardeners. About 200 acres of Wandsworth-common belong to this parish, as also a considerable part of Putney-heath. The soil is for the most part a sandy loam on a bed of gravel.

In the year 1792 the inhabitants were accurately enumerated, and found to amount to 4554 : of these 843 were lodgers, and 460 servants. The number of houses was 689.

The river Wandle flows through and gives its name to the village : on its banks are established many considerable manufactories ; particularly hat-making, which was introduced here by some French protestant families who quitted their native country in the reign of Louis XIV. : there are also two dye-houses here, one of which is principally employed in dying scarlet. The other manufactories are, one for bolting-cloth, another for printing kerseymeres, a third for whitening and pressing stuffs, two for calico-printing ; besides mills for the preparation of iron, of white lead, and linseed oil ; vinegar works and distilleries ; the whole finding employment for between five and six hundred hands.

The church is a brick edifice, the greater part of which was rebuilt in 1780. It



has an ancient square tower. Among its monuments the most considerable are that of Sir Thomas Brodrick and his lady, Henry Smith, Esq., Robert Knaresborough, Samuel Palmer, Esq. surgeon, and Edward Barker, baron of the exchequer. There is a cemetery belonging to this parish about half a mile from the church, on the London road. The living is a vicarage, under private patronage. There is a considerable quakers' meeting at Wandsworth.

The hills on each side of the river Wandle are well known for the pleasing views that they offer of the Thames, the metropolis, and great part of the county of Middlesex. The villa of Anthony Rucker, Esq. is a conspicuous ornament to the neighbourhood.

In this parish is the hamlet of Garrett; noted for a mock election that takes place here on the meeting of a new parliament; this custom has given rise to the plot of Foote's amusing comedy of the Mayor of Garrett.

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P U T N E Y.

OF this parish a very large proportion is waste; the rest is for the most part arable, including about 150 acres occupied by nursery-men and market gardeners. The soil is chiefly sand and gravel, with some clay.

In the year 1792 an enumeration was made of the houses and of the inhabitants; of the former, there were 440; of the latter, 2294; of whom 274 were lodgers.

A large and handsome wooden bridge was erected in the year 1729 over the Thames, between Putney and the opposite village of Fulham. The work was executed at the expense of thirty subscribers, who advanced 740*l.* each: the annual income of the bridge, arising from its tolls, is supposed to be nearly 3000*l.* The last share that was put up to sale was bought for thirteen hundred guineas.

The church is a small irregular building, erected in the 13th century; but since that time has undergone several alterations, of which the chief is the addition of a small ornamented chapel, built by Nicholas West, bishop of Ely, who was the son of a baker in this place. In this church, during the civil wars, and a short time before king Charles made his escape from Hampton-court to the Isle of Wight, Cromwell, Fairfax, Ireton, and the other chief officers of the army, used to hold their consultations; and several threatening declarations from the soldiers to the parliament were here resolved upon. There are many ancient monuments in the church,

church, among which may be mentioned those of Mary Knivet, the Palmer family, the Welbeck family, and Sir W. Becher.

In the church-yard are the tombs of John Toland, the celebrated deistical writer ; and of Robert Wood, the author of two splendid and valuable publications on the ruins of Tadmor and Palmyra. The living is a curacy, in the peculiar jurisdiction of the archbishop of Canterbury.

Besides bishop West, this village gave birth to Thomas Cromwell, earl of Essex : he was the son of a blacksmith, the *élève*, and afterwards the successor of the great Wolsey : by his abilities he rose to the first offices of the state ; and as he equalled Wolsey in his elevation, so he was ruined by the caprice of the same tyrant who destroyed his patron. A man still superior in genius, though not equal in fortune, the celebrated historian Edward Gibbon, was a native of Putney.

One of the public charities of this place is peculiarly accommodated to its situation—a school for the education and maintenance of twenty watermen's sons, founded by Thomas Martyn, at the latter end of the last century. The surplus of the estates left for this purpose is devoted to donations to watermen who have lost a limb in the service of their country.

On the brow of the heath, and in the hamlet of Roehampton, are elegant villas, belonging to lady Grantham, lord Huntingfield, lord Dover, and the earl of Besborough : the latter contains a valuable collection of pictures and antiques. The prospects from various parts of the heath are extremely beautiful. A detached house upon it commemorates an experiment made in 1776, to prove the efficacy of a method of preserving houses from fire, by means of painted iron plates interposed between the ceilings and floors of the several stories, invented by David Hartley, Esq. Near this building is an obelisk erected at the expense of the city of London, and on the anniversary of the great fire, to perpetuate the memory of Mr. Hartley's invention, at the same time recording the municipal privileges conferred on him by the Goldsmiths' company, and the grant of 2500*l.* by the House of Commons.

In Roehampton is a private chapel, the property of the Rev. C. Carr, built in 1777, instead of one formerly in the earl of Portland's house. That house was long inhabited by Christian countess of Devonshire, a celebrated lady, and a zealous royalist in the times of the Commonwealth. Her son William earl of Devonshire resided in it, and entertained there the famous philosopher Hobbes, who had been his tutor.

B A R N E S.

THIS parish contains 900 acres, of which about 150 are common, being for the most part a barren gravel; 600 acres are arable, including the ground occupied by the market gardeners; and the remaining 150 acres are parcelled out into very rich meadows on the Thames bank.

The number of houses in Barnes is 150, giving a population of about 600.

Sir Francis Walsingham occupied the manor-house of Barnes, or Barn-elms, at which, in the year 1589, he entertained queen Elizabeth and her whole court. The house was modernised by Sir Richard Hoare, whose widow now inhabits it. The poet Cowley resided in this village a short time previous to his death.

The church of Barnes is a very ancient structure, built of stone and flint, with a square tower of later construction. It contains monuments of Sir Thomas Powel and Sir Richard Hoare. Edward Rose, citizen of London, who died in 1653, has perpetuated his name by a bequest for the planting and preservation of rose-trees in an enclosure near his tomb. The living is a rectory, under the patronage of the dean and chapter of St. Paul's. Hezekiah Burton, and Francis Hare, afterwards bishop of Chichester, were rectors of Barnes. An extraordinary enthusiast in the last century, Absezer Coppe, resided here as a physician and occasional nonconformist preacher.

On that part of the parish which overlooks the Thames, several villas and lodging-houses have been built of late years, which during the hot weather are so much frequented as to give it the air of a public watering-place.

M O R T L A K E.

THE extent of this parish is about 1400 acres, 650 of which are now enclosed in Richmond-park. The land is for the most part arable, including above 250 acres of garden ground. The cultivation of *asparagus* is carried on here very largely, not fewer than 60 acres being appropriated to this single vegetable. One of the completest farms in this parish is a small one of 80 acres, in the occupation of the king. The soil of Mortlake is chiefly sand and gravel, with some heavy clay in the meadows on the river bank.

The manor of this place long belonged to the see of Canterbury, and the manor-house

house was the occasional residence of many of the archbishops. It was alienated to the crown by Cranmer, and the mansion was pulled down. Nothing of it now remains but the foundation of a wall. The church of Mortlake was first built in the 14th century, and rebuilt in the 16th. It has had many modern repairs. Its tower is square and embattled. There is a font with rich Gothic tracery given by archbishop Bouchier. The monuments in the church offer nothing remarkable. In the church-yard are the tombs of alderman Barber, and Partridge the astrologer. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the patronage of the dean and chapter of Worcester. Among the more eminent residents at Mortlake were Sir John Temple, John Partridge, alderman Barber, the benevolent Edward Colston, and the celebrated Dr. John Dee.

The number of houses is 301; that of the inhabitants, according to actual enumeration in the month of June 1792, was 1766, of whom 339 were lodgers.

The only manufactory in this parish is one of delf and earthen-ware, established here about fifty-five years ago.

The hamlet of East Sheen, situated near Richmond-park, on a rising ground overlooking the river, contains many elegant villas.

CROYDON HUNDRED.

M I T C H A M.

THE number of houses in this parish is about 540; of inhabitants, 3240. The village is situated about nine miles from Westminster-bridge.

The soil for the most part is a rich black mold, particularly fitted for the cultivation of such plants as require a considerable depth of earth: in consequence of which, within the last forty or fifty years large quantities of rhubarb and liquorice have been raised in this parish; besides these, there are great plantations of lavender, wormwood, camomile, anise, peppermint, and other herbs used by the apothecaries. The ground taken up with this kind of culture amounts to 250 acres, 100 of which are appropriated to peppermint, from which a cordial is prepared in much request among dram-drinkers.

The church is built of flints, and has a square embattled tower. It has some remains of painted glass in the east window, and has an ornamented Gothic font. The benefice is a vicarage, in the gift of the lay rector.

The

The eminent persons who have resided here are Sir Walter Raleigh, Sir Julius Cæsar, master of the rolls to queen Elizabeth (who once honoured him with a visit at Mitcham), Dr. Donne, and Moses Mendez, the *rich* poet. There are two calico-printing works and some snuff mills in this parish. Mitcham-grove, a pleasant villa, is the property of Henry Hoare, Esq.

C R O Y D O N.

THE market town of Croydon is situated in an extensive parish of the same name, about ten miles south of London.

The greater part of the land is arable; the soil is various, consisting for the most part of chalk, gravel, sand, and clay. A considerable part of Norwood belongs to the parish, and the waste land on Shirley-common and Croydon-heath amounts to about 600 acres.

The number of houses in the town and hamlets is 800; of inhabitants, nearly 4800. The town is tolerably well built. Its high street is almost a mile in length. There is a market every Saturday, which is reckoned the principal corn-market south of London. There are two annual fairs, in July and October. At the latter, great quantities of walnuts are sold; a product abundantly grown in the middle parts of Surry. The summer assizes for the county are held alternately here and at Guildford.

The manor of Croydon has belonged ever since the Conquest to the see of Canterbury, and most of the prelates to the time of Secker, have occasionally resided at the archiepiscopal palace here, and have hence dated many of their public acts. In the year 1780 the building, being very much decayed, was sold to Sir Abraham Pitches, and is now converted into a calico-printing and bleaching manufactory. The river Wandle has one of its sources in what is called the Bishop's Pond in the palace grounds.

The church is a handsome Gothic structure, built of stone and flints, with an elegant square pinnaced tower at the west end: it contains the tombs of archbishops Grindall, Whitgift, Sheldon, Wake, Potter, and Herring. Alexander Barkley the poet, author of the *Ship of Fools* and *Eclogues*, was buried here, where he also resided during the early part of his life. A capital organ has lately been erected

in

in the church. Besides the church, there are also places of worship here for the quakers and anabaptists.

Archbishop Whitgift, in 1596, founded in Croydon an hospital which still goes by his name, and endowed it with lands for the maintenance of a warden, school-master, or chaplain, and twenty-eight poor brethren and sisters, who are not to be admitted under the age of sixty, and to be nominated by the successive archbishops of the see. In the chapel is a portrait of the founder. The institution is preserved in a flourishing state, except that there are now no scholars on the foundation, which appears to have been part of the original plan. The fishmongers' company have a free school here. At Croydon, barracks have lately been erected for the accommodation of five troops of cavalry.

The earl of Liverpool has a seat in this parish.

M O R D O N.

THE land in this parish is for the most part arable; the soil, a stiff clay. The village is ten miles distant from Westminster-bridge, on the road to Epsom. The number of houses is 65, giving a population of about 390.

The church is a small brick structure, with a low tower at the west end; erected about the year 1636. The east window has some painted glass. The principal monuments are of the family of Garth, once lords of the manor. One of the three daughters of the late Mr. Garth now enjoys it. The living is a rectory, under the patronage of the lord of the manor.

C A R S H A L T O N.

THE land in this parish is both arable and pasture, though the former exceeds the latter in the proportion of seven to one; the soil is chalk, loam, and clay.

The present number of houses is 165, containing about 990 inhabitants.

In the centre of the village is a large clear pool of water formed by the river Wandle, which adds greatly to the beauty of the place: it rises in the adjoining park in a fine spring, and at a small distance flows to the village in a strong current, and begins its duty in turning a mill at the same place. On the banks of the river are established numerous manufactories, of which the chief are two paper mills,

leather

leather and parchment mills, oil, snuff, and logwood mills, and some extensive bleaching grounds.

The principal manor, which belonged to the Scawen family during the greatest part of this century, is now in the possession of George Taylor, Esq. The manor-house is in a park near the church. Another manor, which also belonged to the Scawens, is now the property of W. Andrews, Esq.

The church, which has a low embattled tower, was probably erected in the reign of Richard II., but has some modern additions. It contains an ancient tomb of the family of Gaynesford, and modern monuments of Sir W. Scawen, Sir Edmund Hoskins, Sir John Fellows, and Sir G. Amyand. The benefice is a rectory, under private patronage.

The persons of note who have resided here, are Sir Nicholas Throgmorton, one of queen Elizabeth's counsellors; and Dr. Ratcliffe, equally celebrated for the brutality of his manners, and for extraordinary skill in his profession.

B E D D I N G T O N.

THIS parish contains about 3800 acres, the whole of which is arable, except 250 acres of pasture land: the soil is a light sand. The village is about eleven miles from Westminster-bridge. Its number of houses is about 100; of inhabitants, 600.

The manor of Beddington has for many generations been in the possession of the family of Carew, in which name it is still kept, though by female descent. The manor-house is a large brick building, occupying three sides of a square, the chief part of which is modern. The ancient part was erected by Sir Francis Carew, who entertained queen Elizabeth at his house in two successive years. He is said to have been the first gentleman in England who planted orange-trees.

The church is a Gothic edifice, with a square tower at the west end, erected in the reign of Richard II. It contains the tombs of several individuals of the Carews. The living is a rectory, in the gift of the lord of the manor. That eminent naval commander Sir John Leake was long an inhabitant of this parish.

The hamlet of *Wallington*, in Beddington parish, on the banks of the Wandle, has a large manufactory for printing calico. There is an ancient chapel in the district, at present used as a cart-house and stable. *Woodcote*, now a single farm-house, is thought to have been a considerable Roman station.

ADDING-

A D D I N G T O N.

THE land in this parish is for the most part arable, with a considerable quantity of wood and common. The soil is very various, both gravel, chalk, and stiff clay.

There are 22 houses in the parish, containing about 130 inhabitants.

The village is situated at the foot of a small range of hills, to which it gives its own name. On the brow of the hill are a number of low tumuli, in which urns have been found. The knights templars had once a manor in this parish, which passed, with the rest of their property, to the knights of St. John of Jerusalem. This, and another manor, passed, at the dissolution of monasteries, to the family of Leigh. One manor, now united with the rest, is held by the service of presenting a dish of pottage to the king at his coronation. The present lord of the manor is James Trecothick, Esq. who has a handsome modern mansion in the centre of a park.

The church is a very small structure of Gothic architecture, with a low brick tower at the west end; the chief tombs in it are those of the Leighs and their connexions. The church is decorated with some old hatchments and streamers, and pieces of rusty armour. The living is a vicarage, in the gift of the lay impropriator of the rectory.

C H E A M.

THIS parish contains 1400 acres of land, of which 120 are pasture, the rest being for the most part arable. The soil on the north side of the parish is a strong clay, admirably adapted for the culture of beans and wheat; that on the south side is chalky.

The number of houses is 61, of inhabitants about 360.

The church is a small structure built of flints, with a low square embattled tower. It contains the tombs of lord Stourton; of John lord Lumley, lord of the manor two centuries ago; and of his two wives, lady Jane Lumley, daughter of the earl of Arundel, one of the most learned women of her age; lady Elizabeth Lumley, daughter of lord Darcey; and of that upright lawyer, Sir Joseph Yates, judge of the common pleas. The rectors of Cheam have been men remarkable for their abilities, and the high stations that they have afterwards occupied in the church: from the list may be selected the names of Watson bishop of Chichester, in the 16th

century ; Andrews bishop of Winchester, in the 17th century ; Mountain archbishop of York ; Senhouse bishop of Carlisle ; Hacket bishop of Lichfield and Coventry ; Playfere, Margaret professor of divinity at Cambridge ; and Bernard, Savilian professor of astronomy at Oxford. The living is a rectory, in the patronage of St. John's college, Oxford.

At Cudington, in this parish, was situated the magnificent palace of Nonfuch, begun by Henry VIII., finished by Henry earl of Arundel, a favourite seat of Elizabeth, and kept up as a royal residence till the execution of Charles I. ; it then came into the possession of Algernon Sidney, and at the Restoration was granted to the dutchess of Cleveland, who pulled down the old house, and disparted the land. The estate was the property of the Rev. Joseph Whately, now deceased, whose mansion is at some distance from the site of the old palace. There is a vein of fine tobacco-pipe clay in Cheam, very useful for making molds for the casting of metals.

KINGSTON HUNDRED.

K E W.

THIS parish, which previous to the year 1769 was a hamlet of Richmond, is but of small extent. The soil is sandy, and almost the whole that is not included in the royal gardens is arable.

The number of houses is about 80, giving a population of about 480. Most of them are built round a level open spot, called Kew-green, and make a handsome appearance.

The chapel, erected in 1714 on the east end of the green, is a small brick structure with a turret. Among other tombs, it contains those of Gainsborough, the celebrated painter ; Meyer, eminent for his painting in miniature and enamel ; and Kirby, the architect and writer on perspective. It is in the diocese of Winchester, and forms a joint vicarage with Petersham.

Among the former inhabitants of Kew were Charles Somers earl of Worcester ; Edward earl of Devon ; Sir George Puckering, lord keeper in queen Elizabeth's time ; Sir Peter Lely ; and Stephen Duck the poet.

Kew is principally of note for its royal palace and gardens. The palace, anciently Kew-house, was taken on a long lease from the Capel family by the late prince
of

of Wales, who made it an occasional retreat ; and it was improved and ornamented by Kent for the princess dowager. It is small and plain, but contains some good pictures.

Kew gardens, containing about 120 acres, were begun by the late prince of Wales, and to the present time have been receiving successive improvements : the walks are planned with much taste, and ornamented by a variety of native and foreign trees and shrubs, among which are intermixed the picturesque decorations of alcoves, temples, and arches of various architecture, designed and executed by the late Sir William Chambers. The principal of these is a Chinese pagoda, 163 feet in height. But the glory and pride of these gardens is the vast and scientific collection that it contains of plants from all parts of the world, assembled, by the direction of his present majesty, in spacious stoves and green-houses, and flourishing almost as luxuriantly as in their native climates ; a collection which far surpasses in its numbers and arrangement any other, either private or public, as is evinced by the valuable catalogue, entitled, *Hortus Kewensis*, published by the late Mr. Aiton, the head gardener. Dr. Darwin has celebrated these gardens in the following beautiful lines :

“ So fits, enthron’d in vegetable pride,
Imperial KEW, by Thames’s glittering side :
Obedient sails, from realms unfurrow’d, bring
For her the unnam’d progeny of spring :
Attendant nymphs her dulcet mandates hear,
And nurse in fostering arms the tender year ;
Plant the young bulb, inhume the living seed ;
Prop the weak stem, the erring tendril lead :
Or fan, in glass-built fanes, the stranger flowers
With milder gales, and steep with warmer showers :
Delighted Thames through tropic umbrage glides,
And flowers antarctic, bending o’er his tides ;
Drinks the new tints, the sweets unknown inhales,
And calls the sons of science to his vales.
In one bright point admiring Nature eyes
The fruits and foliage of discordant skies ;
Twines the gay flowret with the fragrant bough,
And binds the wreath round George’s royal brow.” *Loves of the Plants.*

An old house opposite to the palace, formerly belonging to the Portman family, and purchased in 1781 for the queen, has been inhabited by various branches of the royal family ; and the present king was educated in it.

There is a handsome stone bridge across the Thames at Kew, opened in 1789, and the private property of Robert Tunstall, Esq. whose father erected it.

R I C H M O N D.

THE parish of Richmond, anciently called Sheen, is of moderate extent; the soil is a light sand or gravel, and that part of it which is not included in the royal park and gardens almost wholly arable.

The number of houses in the parish is 815; of inhabitants, about 4900.

The manor of Sheen in this parish has long been annexed to the crown, and was a favourite residence of many of our kings. Henry VII. converted the manor-house into a handsome palace, and gave to the town its present name of Richmond. It gradually fell to decay; but part of it was inhabited in the time of James II., and some of the offices are still in being. Its site is occupied by private houses held on leases under the crown.

The new park, which was made by Charles I., is of considerable circuit, and well stocked with deer; but little of it is within this parish. Of the old park, part was formed into an extensive garden by Brown, and united to Kew-garden; and the remainder was converted by the present king into a dairy and grazing farm, superintended by himself.

Many also of the nobility and people of fashion, invited by the beauty of the situation, make Richmond an occasional residence. Indeed the whole island shows no place comparable for richness and perfect beauty to the view from the brow of Richmond-hill. A succession of high banks richly clothed with hanging wood, form the southern boundary of the luxuriant scene. To the west and north flows the Thames in its winding course from Twickenham to Isleworth, bordered with meadows of the finest verdure, or, more properly, pleasure-grounds, belonging to the fine seats which decorate its banks; and beyond the Thames, a rich and well-wooded country, beautifully varied in its surface, and interspersed with houses, extends to the limit of vision. The hill and town of Richmond itself, with its elegant houses and sloping gardens, and the woods of Peterham, form almost an equally delightful prospect from the river and the opposite meadows.

In Richmond-gardens is an elegant observatory, built by Sir William Chambers in 1769, containing a valuable set of astronomical instruments, and a collection of subjects

subjects in natural history ; among which are specimens of the minerals of the Hartz-forest, in the king's German dominions.

Among the attractions of Richmond is a theatre, opened in the summer, and supplied with performers from the London stages.

The bridge over the Thames at Richmond is an elegant stone structure, built by Messrs. Paine and Coufe, and finished in 1777, at the expence of about 26,000*l*. The view from it, of both sides of the river, is singularly beautiful.

The parish church of Richmond is an irregular building, partly ancient, partly modern, with a low embattled tower. Among the monuments, some of the most remarkable are those of Henry viscount Brounker, lady Howard of Escrick, and her son ; Mrs. Yates the actresses, Robert Lewes, Esq. admiral Holbourn, and Sir Matthew Decker. The poet Thomson, who spent the latter part of his life at Richmond, in a house now occupied (much enlarged) by the Hon. Mrs. Boscawen, was buried in Richmond church, and a brass tablet has lately been put up by the earl of Buchan to mark the spot. The living of Richmond is a perpetual curacy, under the patronage of St. John's college, Cambridge.

At Richmond are alms-houses founded by bishop Duppa, who died at this place in 1662 ; and also some others, and a charity-school.

KINGSTON UPON THAMES.

THIS town, which is one of the principal in the county, has a market on Saturdays, and is governed by a corporation of about fifty members, a town clerk, recorder, two bailiffs, and a high steward. It was formerly a borough, and sent representatives to parliament till the reign of Edward III., at which period, in consequence of a petition from the corporation, it was relieved from that supposed burden.

The town, together with the hamlets of Hook and Ham, contains about 750 houses, and 4500 inhabitants. The name of the place is derived from its having been a royal demesne, and the occasional residence of many of the Anglo-Saxon kings. During the civil wars of the last century it became a post of considerable importance, and was alternately occupied by troops of both parties : the affections of the inhabitants, however, were directed to the king, from whom they had received many privileges and favours.

The

The town-hall, in the market-place, was erected in the reign of Elizabeth. It is decorated with some painted glass, chiefly representing armorial bearings. The Lent assizes for Surry are held in this hall.

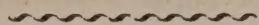
The church is a considerable structure, built at different times, but no part of it before the reign of Richard II. Some of the principal monuments are those of Sir Anthony Benn, colonel Fane, George Bate, M. D. and captain Pearce, lost in the Halfewell East Indiaman. The church is in the diocese of Winchester. The living is a vicarage, in the gift of King's college, Cambridge. There are meeting-houses for the presbyterians, anabaptists, and quakers, in this town. A free grammar-school was founded here by queen Elizabeth on the site of a suppressed religious house. The school-room was anciently the chapel of St. Mary Magdalen. There is an alms-house founded in 1667 by W. Cleave, Esq. alderman of London. The wooden bridge over the Thames at Kingston is the oldest on the river, that of London excepted. It is mentioned in a record of the eighth year of Henry III. It has frequently been in part broken down in the civil commotions of the kingdom, and consequently has undergone frequent repairs. The Middlesex side was lately much widened. There is a bridge of three arches over a small stream called the Hogs-mill River, which here joins the Thames. The trade of Kingston is chiefly in corn and malt. The parish is large. Its soil consists of clay, sand, and gravel. The land is for the most part arable. The manor, which was a royal demesne, was granted to the freemen by king John, on payment of a fee-farm rent.

The principal building worth notice in this parish, is Ham-house, situated near the Thames; it was built in the year 1610, and, in the reign of Charles II. became the property of the duke of Lauderdale, who furnished it in the most magnificent style of that luxurious age; since which period it has undergone but little alteration, and remains a curious specimen of the massy and cumbrous decoration then in vogue. It contains some fine pictures by old masters, and a rich collection of portraits. Its present owner is the earl of Dysart. The walks of Ham are planted with venerable trees, which give a magnificent shade to the banks of the Thames.

M O U L S E Y.

TWO small towns, distinguished into East and West Moulsey, occupy the bank of the Thames opposite Hampton: their name is derived from their situation at the junction

junction of the Mole with the former river. At E. Moulsey is a bridge, and at W. Moulsey a ferry, over the Thames; the property of both of which belongs to lord Brownlow. Mr. Tutton, the lord of the manor, has built a handsome house at E. Moulsey.



W A L T O N.

BETWEEN Moulsey and Weybridge, on the Thames' side, is situated the village and parish of Walton. On an elevation in the heath, called St. George's Hill, is an ancient camp, supposed to have been Roman, whence is continued to some distance a rampart and trench. An elegant bridge of light-coloured brick, ornamented with stone, crosses the river, from which is continued a long succession of arches supporting the road, in order to give a free passage to the water in times of flood. The present bridge was erected in the room of a very handsome and ingeniously constructed one of wood, by the late Mr. Decker, containing an arch of an hundred feet in the span, but which was taken down a few years since on account of its deficiency in strength.

Several villas and elegant mansions are contained within the boundaries of the parish, particularly Apps-court, belonging to Jer. Hodges, Esq.; Ashley-park, the residence of Sir Henry Fletcher, Bart.; Burwood-park, the seat of Sir John Frederick, Bart., member of parliament for the county; and the mansion of the earl of Tankerville. But the glory of this neighbourhood is *Paine's-bill*, the residence of the late Benjamin Bond Hopkins, Esq. From the western bank of the Mole extends to a considerable distance, a series of desolate moory hills, of which the tract lying nearest the river was occupied by Mr. Charles Hamilton, whose taste and perseverance have converted a bare waste into another paradise. A semicircular park sloping to the Mole, bounded and overlooked by a crescent-formed girdle of plantations and gardens, constitutes the great outline, each part of which is finished in an admirable manner, so as to combine in perfect harmony a vast variety of situation and embellishment. The lake with its islands, the wild woods, the ornamented groves, the shrubberies glowing with the bright tints of well-selected exotic vegetables, give and receive from each other the varied and mingled beauties of association and contrast. From Mr. Hamilton this delightful retreat passed to Benjamin Bond Hopkins, Esq. who
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added a handsome and convenient house. On his death it was purchased by Robert Hibbert, Esq.; at the same time, a famous statue of Bacchus, which had been successively possessed by Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Hopkins, and valued at 1700*l.*, was sold for about 400*l.*

W E Y B R I D G E.

THIS pretty village is situated on the river Wey, a little above its junction with the Thames, and contains within its parochial boundaries several beautiful villas. Of these the principal is Oatlands, the residence of the duke of York, occupying a grand sweeping brow on the Thames, from which Walton-bridge and the adjoining scenery appear to great advantage: since it came into the possession of his royal highness, many improvements have been made in its little territory. Ham-farm, the seat of the earl of Portmore, is also well worthy of notice; the farm and plantations occupy 500 acres, bounded on one side by the Thames, and intersected by the river Wey. The next place that merits notice is Woburn-farm, an enclosure of about 150 acres, which was planned and laid out by the late Philip Southcote, Esq., who, together with Mr. Hamilton, was the inventor of the elegant *ferme ornée*: the former of these gentlemen Mason in his *English Garden* celebrates in the following lines:

“ On thee, too, Southcote, shall the Muse bestow
No vulgar praise; for thou to humblest things
Couldst give ennobling beauties: deck'd by thee,
The simple farm eclips'd the garden's pride,
Ev'n as the virgin blush of innocence
The harlotry of art.”——

Besides those above mentioned, this parish contains Jay's-place and Brooklands, the seats of George Payne, Esq. of which the latter is peculiarly beautiful.

E S H E R.

THIS parish is chiefly remarkable for the two celebrated seats of Claremont and Esher-place.

Claremont, the noble residence of the earl of Tyrconnel, lies a little to the south-west of *Esher*, and was formerly possessed by Thomas Holles Pelham, duke of

New-

Newcastle, having purchased it from Sir John Vanbrugh. After he had been created earl of Clare in 1714, it thence obtained its present name, "Claremont." Sir John had built his house, from a design of his own, in a singular, and rather an irregular kind of architecture. It was a large, low brick dwelling, in a hollow situation, with little prospect or decoration. Its site is still marked by two cedars, which grew at each end of it, about 200 yards in the front of the present stately edifice. To this house his Grace added a magnificent room, for the occasional entertainment of large companies, when he made a part of administration. He also built very convenient offices, some of which still remain; and extensive kitchen gardens, all of which have been preserved. His Grace also considerably enlarged his original purchase, by extensive additions taken in from the circumjacent common, planting on it from time to time, in considerable numbers, trees of various kinds, with little taste in distribution, but with the satisfaction of seeing them thrive beyond all expectation.

On the death of the duke of Newcastle, the late lord Clive became possessed of Claremont by purchase; by whom no expense was spared, and no talents left unemployed, that could tend to improve and to embellish this park: and it is now become a very beautiful, as well as very profitable, tract of ground; maintaining a large stock of cows, sheep, and horses; affording a great quantity both of pasturage and of hay; and the parts of it under tillage making abundant returns of grain and other vegetables. Lord Clive, when setting out on his last voyage to India, employed the celebrated *Browne* upon this place, both as his *gardener* and *architect*, without CONTROL of *plan*, or LIMITATION of *expense*; merely ordering him to build him a house, and to improve and decorate the grounds in the best and most magnificent style that his capacity was equal to: in all this *Browne* did not disappoint him. The expense of *Claremont*, first and last, to lord Clive, did not amount to less than 150,000*l*.

Nothing could be more flattering and more gratifying to *Browne*, than the being employed as an *architect* in so great an undertaking. He well knew the world allowed him his FULL MERIT as a *gardener*; and though he was frequently consulted in making additions to or alterations of old houses, *Claremont* is his ONLY legitimate *architectural offspring*. *Browne's* genius showed itself equal to this important confidence: he designed and completed a house, which for convenience, as well as for magnificence, is scarcely to be equalled. It stands in a commanding situation, nearly towards the centre of the park, forming an oblong square of forty-four yards in length

by thirty-four in breadth, and contains eight spacious rooms on the ground floor, besides the hall of entrance, and beyond that the great staircase. A considerable expanse of water is discovered through an opening in the plantations not perfectly regular, but thickly skirted on both sides by full-grown trees of various hue and species. Immediately beyond the water, the eye creeps up a verdant concave for about 250 yards, when it reaches an eminence richly crowned by a brilliant mass of close wood: there is also from another front of the house a view of a large piece of water, and a pretty romantic low building at the end of it, called the duke of Newcastle's fish-house. The principal front is distinguished for the beauty and simplicity of its architecture; a flight of thirteen steps conducts to the great door of entrance under a pediment supported by four Corinthian columns.

The pleasure-grounds and close plantations are considerably extensive; admirably laid out and well kept; through which the genius of Browne is every where visible. Several little erections for the purpose of repose, sequestration, or as stations to prospects, are judiciously dispersed through the woods, lawns, glades, &c. composed of materials correspondent to their characters, and formed and furnished with appropriate accommodations. The building in form of a castle, placed on the highest mount in the park, was erected by the duke of Newcastle, then lord Clare, and called after his own name Claremont; on which occasion Garth wrote his poem of *Claremont*, in imitation of Cooper's-hill. Hence there is a most delightful prospect both within and without the park. St. Paul's, Windsor-castle, Hampton-court, &c. &c. are perfectly visible. Hares and partridges abound in the park, and the present endeavour to increase the number of pheasants is likely to be successful.

Essex-place, the seat of the late right hon. Henry Pelham, at present occupied by his daughter, Miss Pelham, is a brick structure in the Gothic style, on the site of an ancient palace of the bishops of Winchester, founded by bishop Wainfleet, and altered and improved by cardinal Wolsey. It is situated in a low vale on the banks of the Mole, and its domains extend to the neighbouring heights, which are crested by grand plantations, and afford a variety of rich prospects over the windings of the Thames to Windsor, Richmond-hill, and Harrow. Thomson has celebrated "Essex's groves"—

"Where in the sweetest solitude, embrac'd
By the soft windings of the silent Mole,
From courts and senates Pelham finds repose."

COBHAM.

C O B H A M.

THIS village and parish is only remarkable for some copper and iron-works, the property of Mr. Raby, which are the means of employing a considerable number of the poor in this neighbourhood; and for a seat built after an Italian model, by the late lord Ligonier. The Mole, which flows by its side, being widened to four or five times its natural breadth, is formed into a very conspicuous and beautiful feature of the landscape; and the house, embowered in fine elm-trees, constitutes a good point of view from Cobham-heath. At a little distance is Cobham-street, a hamlet, consisting of two inns and several straggling houses disposed along the road side, whence it derives its name.

 C H E R T S E Y H U N D R E D.

C H E R T S E Y.

THE ancient market-town of Chertsey is a place of no great extent or consequence, built in a low, but not unhealthy situation, about a mile from the Thames. It was formerly raised into some importance by its vicinity to a large abbey of Benedictine monks, the abbot of which enjoyed a seat in parliament; of the old building there are at present no remains: the church, however, of the same date with the abbey, still continues to be made use of; it is of Saxon architecture, very plain, and contains no monuments except two small tablets for the Mawbey family. The town has a weekly market celebrated for its poultry, and four annual fairs.

To this place the poet Cowley retired, and spent the last years of his life at the *Porch-house*, now belonging to Richard Clark, Esq.

At a little distance from Chertsey is St. Ann's-hill, the seat of the right hon. Charles James Fox. The present appearance of this place shows how much may be done by a well-regulated taste, even with an unpromising subject. The house, which is an old one, stands upon the side of the hill, and opens upon about seven acres of pleasure-ground, laid out with exquisite taste and judgment. Over this pleasure-ground, from before the principal front of the house, is seen a hanging lawn of about eleven acres, surrounded by a belt of well-grown trees, and various underwood, through which winds a gravel walk, parted from the lawn by an open gate fence. Mr. Fox possesses several fields to the back of his house, which are not seen from his improved grounds. The distribution of the pleasure-ground is fascina-

ting, and it is decorated with trees of a variety of kinds, most happily grouped or judiciously dispersed, and all of them perfectly well grown. Mr. Fox's collection of botanical plants, exotic and native, is very considerable; and for their protection in winter he has built a spacious conservatory. In these pleasure-grounds, though upon so small a scale as seven acres, is formed a combination of every thing that is graceful and ornamental in the most extensive decorations of this nature, WATER ALONE EXCEPTED, which no art can produce in this situation. Nearly in the centre of the shrubbery stands a very prettily designed open pavilion, lined with spars and shells, disposed with great taste and effect, over which is a most pleasing sitting-room with a fire-place, and furniture well suited for repose or collations. The windows of this room are chiefly of painted glass, by Jarvis, amongst which appears a very striking likeness of Mr. Fox. Upon the top of St. Ann's-hill is a commodious seat, from which is a most extensive prospect over three points of the compass, comprehending St. Paul's church at nineteen miles distance, Windsor-castle, Hampton-court palace, and a prodigious number of country seats, villages, spires of churches, and every other object that characterizes the beautiful and luxuriant vale of the Thames.

Besides St. Ann's-hill, there is in this parish an elegant modern villa called Botleys, the property and residence of Sir Joseph Mawbey; and Ottershaw house and park, belonging to Edmund Boehm, Esq. both large buildings situated on eminences.

Adjoining to Ottershaw is Anningsley-farm, surrounded by a ring fence of some miles; belonging to which is a plain house, worthy of notice, as having been the property and residence of the late celebrated Thomas Day, Esq., author of the *History of Sandford and Merton*, &c. It is now rented by the owner of Ottershaw.

Mr. Day was in theory great, but in practice very deficient. He was fully persuaded, till the expensive attempts of many years convinced him of the reverse, that there was scarcely any land, however sterile, which might not, by cultivation, be brought to considerable perfection. This estate, nearly surrounded by barren heaths, of which it probably heretofore formed a part, was of a poisonous, light, sandy soil, in the tillage and manure of which he expended large sums to little purpose. As a gentleman, he could afford experiments and bear the loss. In some parts on the banks of the river, the estate was much improved; and in the more barren, which had hitherto produced nothing, he made large plantations of fir, ash, &c. which are now of considerable growth; but after all, by far the greater space was left as he found it, unproductive and unprofitable. He was not ashamed to

acknowledge his failure, replying, that he had had the satisfaction of giving employ to the poor of his neighbourhood when they could not procure it elsewhere. One life of this gentleman has been published, and another is expected.

Near Anningsley is the beautiful piece of water, Shire-pond, well stocked with fish ; parallel to which runs the Basingstoke canal.

T H O R P E L E E

IS a neat pretty village on the Thames' side, with a handsome old church. In the parish are the seats of admiral Evans, Sir Edward Blacket, Bart., and Mr. Wyatt. It is however remarkable for being the residence of Mr. Wapshote, a farmer, the lineal descendant of a line of ancestors from the time of the great Alfred ; to one of whom, Reginald de Wapshote, was granted by that monarch this individual farm, upon which his posterity have ever since resided.

E G H A M.

THIS village, like the former, is pleasantly situated on the Thames ; and within the boundary of its parish includes *Cooper's-hill*, first rendered famous by the muse of Denham, and afterwards celebrated by Pope and Somerville.

“ On Cooper's-hill eternal wreaths shall grow,
While lasts the mountain, or while Thames shall flow.
I seem through consecrated walks to rove,
I hear soft music die along the grove :
Led by the sound, I rove from shade to shade,
By godlike poets venerable made :
Here his first lays majestic Denham sung,
There the last numbers flow'd from Cowley's tongue.” POPE.

Of Sir John Denham's house on Cooper's-hill there are at present no remains : it is now occupied by Ankerwyke Purnish, the residence of lord Shulldham, and Kingwood-lodge, the villa of William Smith, Esq. in whose grounds is a seat recorded by tradition as the very spot whence Denham surveyed the beautiful and varied scenery described in his poem.

In this parish is also the plain of Runnymede, on which are exhibited annual horse-races : its celebrity, however, arises from its being the spot—

“ Where England's ancient barons, clad in arms,
And stern with conquest, from their tyrant king
(Then render'd tame) did challenge and secure
The charter of their freedom.”

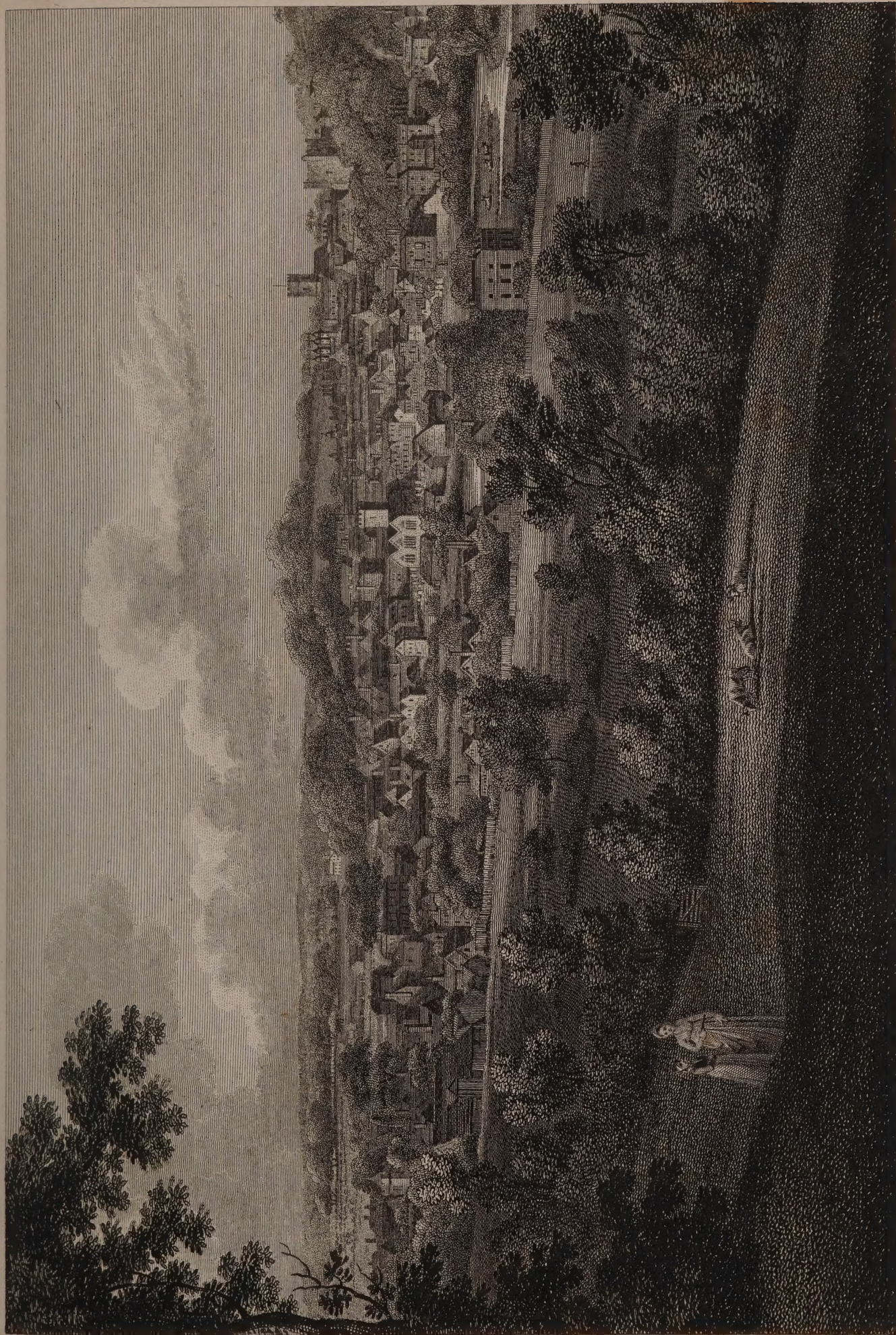
Near the opposite shore is a small island, still called Magna Charta Island, where it is said the great charter was signed.

G U I L D F O R D.

THE borough and market town of Guildford, the county town of Surry, is situated on the river Wey, thirty miles from London, consisting principally of one good street of about half a mile in length. It sends two members to parliament, and is governed by a mayor, recorder, and aldermen. There were formerly here three convents, one of which is now converted into officers' barracks, and a range of buildings for the accommodation of the foldiers has been lately erected. The churches are three in number, and the baptists and quakers have each a meeting-house. Its charitable establishments are considerable; consisting of two charity-schools for thirty boys and twenty girls, an alms-house founded by Geo. Abbot, archbishop of Canterbury, for old men and widows, and a grammar-school instituted by king Edward VI. Another charity is just founded by two brothers, Mr. Parsons', of this town, for a small number of men and women.

On an eminence at the south side of the town stand the ruins of an ancient moated castle, a royal villa in the times of our Saxon monarchs: a tower constructed of flint, chalk, and grit-stone, and some fragments of the walls, are the sole remains of this edifice. A brick bridge crosses the Wey, near which is a considerable corn-mill, in which the several processes of grinding, sifting, &c. are carried on by an ingenious adaptation of machinery: it supplies the town and neighbourhood with excellent flour, besides sending large contributions to the London markets. This town formerly possessed an extensive manufactory in woollen cloth, of which there are at present no remains: by means, however, of the Wey, which is rendered navigable from the Thames as far as Godalming, it partakes, with this latter place, in the carriage of oak timber from the Sussex and Hampshire woods to the dock-yards on the Thames. The horse-races here, which commence when those at Newmarket end, draw to the town a good deal of company; and the great road from Portsmouth to London passing through the town furnishes ample employment and encouragement to its numerous inns. Immediately west of the town rises a long and narrow ridge of chalk called the Hog's-back, from the summit of which is a very beautiful prospect of the gentle and sinuous course of the river Wey, through its richly cultivated vale, enclosed to the east and west by wooded heights. The annexed view was taken from the south side of the river.

Near Guildford are two ancient chapels, situated each on the top of a hill, reported to have been built by two sisters. They bear the names of St. Martha and St. Catharine; public service is still performed in the first, but the latter is reduced to a ruin.



M. Knight sculp.

VIEW OF GUILDFORD.

Published July 25. 1790. by I. Stockdale, Painter.

W. Jones del.

a ruin. At Chilworth are some considerable gunpowder mills. On the Wey, four miles south of Guildford, is situated the little town of Godalming; it consists principally of a single street about half a mile in length, has one parish church and two meeting-houses, and a good brick bridge over the Wey. For its size it is a place of considerable business, possessing a manufactory of cloth, stockings, and fleecy-hosiery: some curriers also are settled here; and from a large wharf near the bridge, are annually sent into the Thames great quantities of oak timber; in this latter service about thirty barges are constantly employed, with a back carriage of coals for the supply of Guildford, Godalming, and the neighbourhood. In the vicinity of these towns, by the side of the Wey, or in the little glens among the hills, are several beautiful situations, particularly the village of Puttenham, where admiral Cornish has a villa. The principal mansion in the vicinity is Clandon, the property of lord Onslow, and at present occupied by the archbishop of Canterbury. Of the other surrounding seats, the chief are, a house formerly belonging to the late general Oglethorpe, near Godalming, now the property of Nathaniel Godbold, Esq.; and another, the residence of captain Bertie; the mansion and park of William Aldersey, Esq. at Stoke; that of R. Austen, Esq. at Shalford; the seat of dowager lady Grantley, at Wonerth; Loseley-house, the seat of William Stroud, Esq.; and Sutton-place, belonging to Webbe Weston, Esq.: the two latter are very ancient.

R Y E G A T E.

THE borough of Ryegate, which gives its name to the hundred, is situated a little east of the river Mole, twenty-two miles from London. It is a place of considerable antiquity, and contains several good houses; on account, however, of the large poor rates, it is at present in a state of great depopulation. It possesses a weekly market for corn, poultry, &c., and one on the first Wednesday in every month for cattle. The patronage of this borough is divided between lord Hardwicke and lord Somers, who nominate its two representatives in the House of Commons.

The church is a substantial stone building, in the Gothic style, with a square tower, open cloisters, and arched windows, containing in the chancel a fine marble monument to the memory of Richard Ladbroke, Esq. The living is a vicarage, in the gift of the Filewood family. The independent dissenters have also lately erected a meeting-house here. On a hill close to the town are the remains of an old castle,

castle, and a passage scooped in the soft sand-stone to an unknown extent; it soon divides into two branches, one of which leads to a small apartment or enlargement of the passage; the other is incapable of being explored on account of the roof having fallen in. The green, planted with some old cannon, is a pretty object to the traveller, near which is a moat that formerly supplied the greater part of the town with water. A little way on the Brighton road is situated a large workhouse for the poor of five associated parishes, who are farmed to an overseer at 1900*l. per annum*, and employed in the manufacture of coarse blankets, rugs, waggon-tilts, &c. The country round is fertile and well cultivated; adapted for the most part to the turnip husbandry, being a light chalky or sandy soil; there is however some clay land, on which are made bricks and tiles of an excellent quality: some pits of fuller's earth also have lately been opened. The most beautiful situation in this neighbourhood is Gatton, on the London road, about three miles from Ryegate. At the northern extremity stands Upper Gatton-house, the residence of Mark Currie, Esq. surrounded by fine plantations, and commanding a rich and extensive prospect. About a mile further is Gatton-park, or Lower Gatton-house, an elegant and modern structure, the property and residence of William Petrie, Esq.; it is situated on the top of a sloping eminence, and surrounded by a beautiful park, in which the happy natural disposition of the ground is consulted, and decorated by luxuriant woods broken into groves, and scattered into elegant groupes, between the intervals of which are charming views of the wooded hills and rich vales of the circumjacent country. This mansion-house and its appendages were purchased by Mr. Petrie of Robert Ladbroke, Esq. for 110,000*l.* of which sum a considerable part was a valuable consideration for the entire property of the borough of Gatton, the two members of which are returned by the constable and seven electors at the court of the lord of the manor.

L E A T H E R H E A D,

A CONSIDERABLE village on the road from Epsom to Dorking, has a bridge of many arches over the Mole, which, though a small stream, is subject to great floods. Hence commences a beautiful vale, running upwards about four miles, and affording a bed for the Mole, which turns round the corner of Box-hill in its course from the neighbourhood of Ryegate. This narrow vale, consisting of a stripe of rich meadows, bounded on each side by a range of steep eminences, combines

combines more of the romantic character with the beautiful than any spot within an equal distance from the metropolis. It is decorated with many elegant seats occupying its eastern side, while its western is chiefly taken up with the park and grounds of Mr. Lock, a gentleman well known for the justness and elegance of his taste. A few miles on the Guildford road is the ancient village of Effingham, which gives the title of earl to the peer of that name.

Norbury-park, Mr. Lock's residence, is a very handsome white house, seated on the summit of the high ground above the vale, in the midst of some of the most flourishing and beautifully disposed plantations any where to be seen. The ground is broken into most picturesque swells and depressions, and affords a number of stations for prospects of perfect beauty, some confined, and others extensive. In the house itself, among other works of art, is a drawing-room, painted by George Barret, an eminent master of landscape, who died in 1784. On the opposite side of the vale, in full view, are the pleasing village of Mickleham, the elegant villa of Sir Lucas Pepys, backed by a bold hanging wood of pine and other trees; and lastly, the most striking feature of the whole place, *Box-hill*, rising abrupt from the bank of the Mole, and displaying a chalky side, in some parts nearly bare, in others clothed with the box-trees which give name to the hill. The summit of this eminence is all crowned by the same ever-verdant shrubs, which are said to have been planted by the earl of Arundel in the reign of Charles I. From the walk led along the brow is a very picturesque view of the objects immediately at its foot, viz. Mr. Berkeley's house and grounds, and Mr. Bockett's grove, his house being hidden in trees. That extremity of the vale which opens into the plain or amphitheatre in which Dorking is situated, is also seen to great advantage; and on winding round the hill, the seats, villages, and other objects which decorate the rich vale leading to Ryegate, present themselves in succession. On an eminence opposite Box-hill, being a continuation of the high ground from Mr. Lock's park, is Denbighs, the seat of Joseph Dennison, Esq. formerly in the possession of Mr. Tyers, proprietor of Vauxhall. Hence the vale winds round towards Guildford. In addition to the attractions afforded by Box-hill and its vicinity, it may be mentioned that its chalky soil is remarkably productive of beautiful and rare plants, among which the Bee Orchis is to be found in considerable plenty.

E P S O M

IS situated about fourteen miles south of London ; it extends a mile and a half in a femicircle, from the church to Durdans, the elegant seat of Mrs. Kenworthy ; being, however, very loofely built, with gardens and fields between the houfes, it contains but few inhabitants in proportion to its extent.

In the year 1618 a mineral fpring, ftrongly impregnated with what was afterwards called Epfom falt, was difcovered about a mile from the town : this foon drew a crowd of vifitors to the wells, firft of invalids, afterwards of idle citizens and people of fafhion ; and for fome years Epfom was the moft favourite place of refort, during the fummer months, of any round the metropolis. Lodging-houfes, public rooms, and other buildings, adapted to the convenience or amufement of ftrangers, foon furrounded the fpring, and the field in which it arofe began to affume the appearance of a town. Its bufy days, however, were foon over ; the fea-coaft, Bath, and Tunbridge, drew off the crowds that had been accuftomed to frequent it, the buildings fell to decay, and the well is now deferted and almoft forgotten. There are many fine feats in the neighbourhood, of which the chief are Durdans, already mentioned ; the manor-houfe on Woodcote-green ; Woodcote-park ; Afhted-park ; Pit-place, the feat of the late Philip Rowden, Efq. ; and the manfion of Sir George Glyn, Bart. ; the two laft of which more properly belong to Ewel, a little market-town about two miles nearer London than Epfom.

The inhabitants of Epfom confift principally of very rich or very poor ; and except during the time of the races few places can be more dull or uninterefting. The afsembly-room, now difufed, is partly fhut up or let out in fmall tenements ; and feveral coftly buildings are uninhabited.

D O R K I N G, or D A R K I N G,

IS a market-town of moderate fize, containing feveral good houfes of ancient date. One of them is inhabited by lord Leslie. Here is a large ancient church, and feveral places of worfhip for feperatifts. The market of Dorking is celebrated for the fale of large poultry. The town has alfo a confiderable trade in meal. Around the town are feveral fine feats ; Deepden, formerly belonging to the duke of Norfolk ; Beachworth-castle, Chart-park, &c.

K E N T.

G R E E N W I C H.

HAVING in a preceding part of this work taken a general survey of the county of Kent, with regard to its rivers, agriculture, and population, we now proceed to a particular description of such places as from local or other circumstances most deserve our notice, and seem necessarily to fall within the limits of our undertaking.

It is not remarkable that the town of Greenwich should first present itself, whether we consider its proud connexion with the metropolis; its situation on the river, than which nothing can impress foreigners with a more striking idea of our progress in every civilized art; or the noble institution of its hospital, majestic in its appearance, and the benevolent object of which is so widely and so effectually diffused.

According to the best and most authentic writers, Greenwich received its name from its situation on the banks of the river. In Saxon it was *Grenawic*, or the Green Town; in Latin, *Grenovicum*. In the reign of Henry V. it was a mean fishing town, but was in great esteem for the secure harbour it afforded to ships. It was in this place that for four succeeding years the Danish fleet remained, whilst their army occupied the eminence above.

Greenwich is in the hundred of Blackheath; its manor was in possession of the monks till the time of Henry the Eighth, who annexed it to the crown, where it remained till the time of Charles the First: it was then sequestered for the benefit of the state; but at the Restoration it reverted to the crown, with which it has since continued. To enter minutely into its history till it became a royal residence, can be neither interesting nor important. The first period on record of its having been honoured by containing a palace for our princes was about the year 1300. From that time till the reign of Charles the Second it was the scene of royal magnificence and courtly splendour. The palace was extended and improved by Humphrey duke of Gloucester—Edward the Fourth added to its grandeur. In this place Henry the Eighth was born, and it was ever the favourite abode of this great and powerful sovereign.

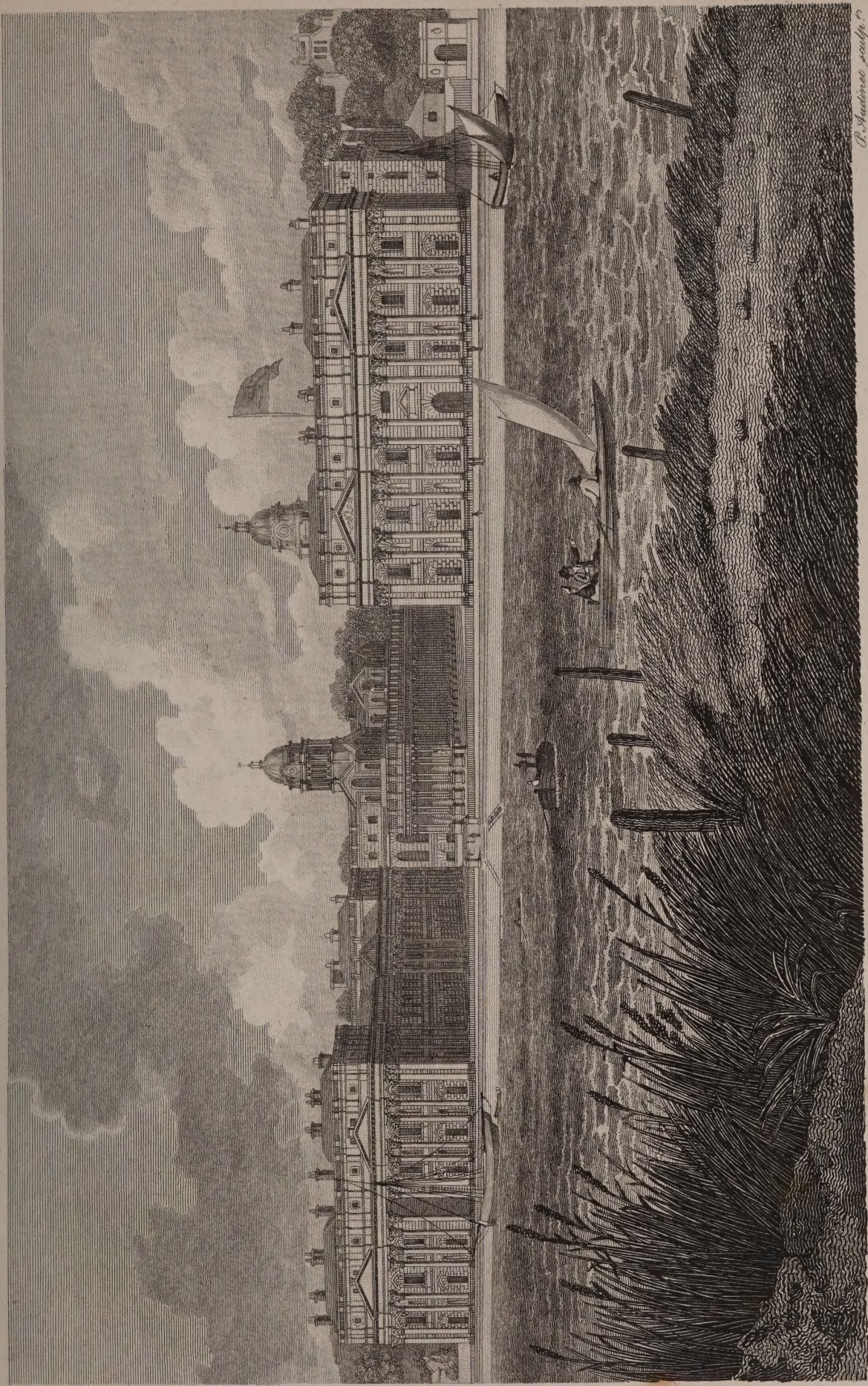
Greenwich was also the birth-place of queen Mary and her sister Elizabeth, and

the latter princess particularly preferred it as the place of her summer residence. The last of our monarchs who inhabited Greenwich palace was Charles the First, though it was occasionally visited by the Protector, and, after him, by Charles the Second. It was in the reign of William and Mary that the plan of converting the palace into an hospital for disabled seamen first originated. This was progressively extended, meliorated, and improved, till it became what it now remains, a truly magnificent monument of national liberality and benevolence.

This noble institution provides for the relief and support of seamen for the royal navy, who from wounds or other circumstances are unqualified for farther service at sea, or unable to maintain themselves. But its benevolence does not terminate here—there is provision also for the maintenance of the widows of such seamen, and the education of the children of such as shall be killed or disabled in the service of their country. The following account of this noble edifice is succinct and abridged, but we trust it will be found sufficiently comprehensive.

Greenwich Hospital.—This noble institution was founded, not on the ruins of a royal palace, but has by gradual steps grown out of one, till it has eclipsed, both in extent and external magnificence, many of those at present existing, and which are now occupied by royal or imperial tenants. On its site originally stood the ancient royal palace called *Placentia*, built by Humphrey duke of Gloucester, in the reign of Henry the Sixth. It was taken by Edward the Fourth, who deposed that monarch, into the hands of the crown, where it remained, having experienced a variety of additions under different sovereigns, till the reign of king Charles the Second. Being then found extremely decayed by time, and the want of necessary repairs, it was dismantled soon after the Restoration, and the erection of one on a more magnificent plan undertaken. It remained, however, with many other buildings of the same æra and description, in a very unfinished state, at the accession of king James the Second, under whom every thing of this nature continued dormant. It was by royal grant from king William and queen Mary, bearing date on the 20th of October, in the sixth year of their reign, conveyed to certain commissioners, of whom the great officers of state formed a part, for the purpose of being converted to the noble purpose, which in a more enlarged extent it has ever since been applied to.

Its original foundation extended only to the reception of three or four hundred seamen; the alterations and additions to the original building necessary to this purpose



VIEW of GREENWICH HOSPITAL.

Pub. Feb. 1. 1796. by J. Stockdale, Strand.

C. Doyne del.

P. Audinet sculp.



pose were completed under the superintendence of Sir Christopher Wren, in the year 1698, and now constitute the north-west pile or building of the four which at the present period collectively form this stupendous erection. Scarce was this first part of the noble undertaking carried into execution, when, to the great honour of national liberality, a building since called queen Anne's was planned and undertaken. It is opposite to that erected by king Charles, and preserves in its principal fronts, the west and north, the same exterior.

The foundation of a third pile called king William's, was laid nearly at the same time on the south-west. It contains that superb apartment, the great dining or painted hall, the decorations of which were executed by Sir James Thornhill, and was originally designed by the architect Sir Christopher Wren, for the use of the officers and men. It has, however, long ceased to be applied to that purpose, the men dining in spacious halls on the lower story, and the officers in their own apartments.

In 1699 the foundation of the eastern colonnade, attached to that quadrangle since called queen Mary's building, was laid; and without entering into a tedious recapitulation of dates, the whole building was finished, nearly in its present form, about the year 1752. Considerable sums have at different times been bequeathed and given by various persons for this highly honourable purpose, and the deficiency has been made good either by parliamentary grants, or the appropriated rents and profits of estates forfeited by families of rank heretofore engaged in rebellion. Among these, the possessions of the unfortunate earl of Derwentwater form a conspicuous and principal part.

The hospital, thus divided into four distinct piles, each of which forms an oblong square with its fronts outwards, contains, by some recent additions and internal improvements, derived particularly from the erection of an infirmary, independent of the hospital itself, nearly two thousand four hundred pensioners, exclusive of their different officers, necessary as well for their government as their comfort.

To the northward, adjoining to the river Thames, is the principal or grand square, the width nearly 280 feet, bounded on the north by the grand parade or wall washed by the river; on the east and west, by the grand fronts of the quadrangles, named in honour of king Charles and queen Anne; and on the south by a flight of steps extending the whole length, in consequence of their more elevated situation.

situation between king William and queen Mary's buildings, as well as in a small degree by the east and west corners of those stupendous piles.

In the centre is the statue of his late majesty king George the Second in white marble, executed by Ryfbrack, and highly esteemed by all judges of sculpture. Upon the whole, the magnificent appearance of the different buildings when viewed on the north side from the Thames, has never in any part of the world been hitherto equalled in a similar erection. The annexed view, taken from the north side of the Thames, will give some idea of the magnitude of the building.

On the 1st of January 1779, a most dreadful fire, occasioned by causes never hitherto known, or at least made public, broke out in a part of queen Mary's building, as is generally supposed, above the chapel. By the greatest exertions it was in a few hours got under, though not till it had entirely consumed the chapel itself, and as many of the adjacent wards as were capable of containing nearly five hundred pensioners. The former erection had been finished with all the elegance then in use, under the direction of Mr. Ripley. The repairs and reconstruction of the present, were conducted by Mr. Stuart. It is in length 111 feet, in breadth 52, so that one thousand pensioners may at any time attend divine service, exclusive of the directors, and different officers. It is finished in a most superb and expensive style, very different from the original building. The paintings which adorn the walls represent the principal events in the life of Jesus Christ, together with the effigies of the Apostles and Evangelists, which are executed in *chiaro oscuro*, by Catton, de Bruyn, Milburne, and Rebecca; the altar-piece is painted by West, and represents the preservation of St. Paul from shipwreck. This magnificent picture is 25 feet high and 14 wide; and on each side of it are two columns; the shafts of Scagliola, executed by Richter, in imitation of Sienna; the capitals and bases of statuary marble: these are answered by four others at the west end, two on each side the organ-loft, and jointly appear to support the ceiling, which is arched. This building was completed, and opened for divine service on the 2d of September 1789.

Reviewing this extensively charitable foundation, the eye of the casual and almost inattentive passenger or stranger, is captivated and astonished at the magnificent exterior, the philanthropic heart of the benevolent friend of poverty is warmed and animated by the substantial relief afforded to the indigent, and the feelings of every well-wisher to his country are raised to the highest pitch on reflecting
that

that so noble an institution has been founded for the comfort and relief of its best and noblest defenders.

The funds for the maintenance of the individuals of this great charity, as well as for the general improvement and extension of the buildings, are large and sufficient. To specify them in detail would occupy too large a portion of a work intended rather to give general information, than for minute and particular investigation. They consist of national contributions and private benefactions. The regulation of the hospital is vested in the governor and a council of officers appointed by the admiralty. The present governor is the right hon. lord Hood, whose salary is 1000*l.* a year: there is also a lieutenant-governor, who at present is William Locker, Esq. with a salary of 400*l.* a year.

In the burial-ground belonging to the hospital the celebrated Tindal was interred. His translation of Rapin's History of England, and continuation of it to the end of the reign of George I., entitle him to respectful mention.

Greenwich-park.—This favourite resort of the gay and affluent, as well as of the humble and the mean, as it cannot be visited without delight, we shall not pass over without praise. The agreeable scenery which it contains within itself, and the truly enchanting prospects which it exhibits from its eminences, cannot fail of infusing a balm over the hearts of those who retire to it from the toil, and care, and smoke of the metropolis. It belongs to the crown, and contains 188 acres. The ranger's lodge, an elegant and convenient edifice, has, we know not from what cause, been long uninhabited. There has been no ranger appointed since the death of lady Catharine Pelham. The other structure in the park is the Observatory, founded by Charles the Second. Here formerly stood a castle or tower, which in the reign of queen Elizabeth was called MIREFLEUR, and which in the troublesome times of 1642 was called Greenwich-castle, and fortified as a place of strength.

The motive of founding this Observatory was highly honourable to the monarch; for it was excited by the hope of discovering the longitude, by ascertaining the places of the fixed stars; it was built in 1675. The first astronomer royal was Flamsteed, from whom this edifice has been denominated Flamsteed-house. Flamsteed was succeeded by men of equal eminence with himself; as a proof of which it is only necessary to mention the names of Halley, Bradley, and Maskelyne. The Observatory is nobly provided with astronomical apparatus; the observations and

discove-

discoveries are every year published, and an annual visitation is made here by a deputation from the Royal Society. The annexed view of London was taken from the Observatory.

The park presents to the eye a noble and delightful area, two sides of which, from the river to Blackheath, are filled with mansions of individuals of rank and opulence. The effect of its views, which exceed description, may be partially seen in Mr. Boydell's magnificent work of the rivers of Great Britain. The river is here strikingly bold and deep, and opposite is the Isle of Dogs, which we mention merely to explain the occasion of its appellation, which is not generally known.—When Greenwich was a royal residence, the spot was appropriated for the king's hounds, and thence its name.

BLACKHEATH, in the vicinity of Greenwich, and at the summit of its park, is a spot alike pleasant and salutary, and as such is crowded with houses of the nobility, gentry, and more opulent tradesmen; the principal of these are the mansions of the duke of Buccleugh, and Chesterfield-house. Lord Chesterfield, the polite author of the letters which go by his name, resided here occasionally for several years. The house is now occupied by Mr. Hulse, who possesses a collection of very valuable pictures.

Blackheath is also famous in the history of our country. It was on this spot that the Danes encamped, whilst their fleet lay beneath them. Here also the Roman road from London to Dover was constructed, which is evinced by various antiquities which have at different times been found, as well as by many tumuli which are still to be distinguished.

Upon Blackheath the Cornish rebels were defeated by Henry VII. It has also at various periods of our history exhibited splendid scenes of triumphal entries, encampments, and pageantries.

The parish church of Greenwich was one of those built in the reign of queen Anne. It is a very handsome and elegant structure, and contains many curious, and some splendid monuments. It is in the diocese of Rochester, and in the patronage of the crown. The present vicar is Andrew Burnaby, D. D. who succeeded Doctor Hinchliffe, the late bishop of Peterborough.

The number of houses in Greenwich is said to be 1850, which, allowing five persons to each, makes the population amount to 9250.



VIEW OF LONDON FROM GREENWICH PARK.

London Published March 2^d 1799. by J. Stockdale Piccadilly.

W. Knight sculpt.

B. Thompson del.



D E P T F O R D.

IN strict propriety, Deptford should have been noticed before Greenwich; but if the greater importance of this latter place be not allowed a sufficient excuse for this trifling deviation, we may add, that the whole of Deptford does not lie within the county of Kent—a part of it is in the county of Surry.

The part of Deptford which lies within this county is, as well as Greenwich, in the hundred of Blackheath.

Its ancient name was Depeford, which sufficiently explains itself. It is contiguous to the high road to Dover, and at the distance of four miles from London. In 1730 it was by act of parliament divided into the two parishes of St. Nicholas and St. Paul, of which we shall speak in their order; first observing, that among the inhabitants this place is distinguished by the names of Upper and Lower Deptford.

The parish of St. Nicholas is the smaller of the two, but its population seems progressively increasing. The society of the Trinity-house was first established here, the object and utility of which are sufficiently notorious. The hall in which the brethren formerly held their meetings was pulled down in 1787: a new and sumptuous edifice has lately been erected for their use upon Tower-hill. The object of the society, in a country like England, is so generally beneficial, that the name of the founder certainly deserves to be commemorated. This was Sir Thomas Spert, who was comptroller of the navy to Henry VIII., in whose reign Deptford was a small and contemptible fishing town. It very soon, however, rose in importance, and consequent population, by the establishment of the royal dock-yard, which also took place in the commencement of the same reign.

This dock consists of one large and spacious store-house, to which a long range of smaller buildings have been added within the last twenty years. The whole together does not occupy a space of much less extent than thirty acres. There are two wet docks, two mast-ponds, three slips, and about twenty forges. There is no commissioner at this yard; but the business of it is conducted entirely by the Navy board; and many of our largest ships have been built here.

This parish of St. Nicholas also contains two hospitals, which are under the patronage and protection of the brethren of the Trinity-house. The old hospital is close to the church; it was repaired and extended in 1788, and at present

consists of twenty-five chambers. The other hospital stands in Church-street. The individuals receiving benefit from these two charities are aged masters of ships, decayed pilots, or the widows of both. The corporation of the Trinity-house have an annual meeting at one or other of these hospitals every Trinity Monday.

In this parish also is an excellent charity-school, at which no less than fifty boys and as many children of the other sex are educated, and afterwards placed out in trade. The school is for the benefit of the two parishes of St. Nicholas and St. Paul.

Deptford is also famous for a valuable manufacture of earthen-ware, which employs a very considerable number of hands of all ages and both sexes. It is called Deptford ware.

The parish of St. Nicholas is a vicarage; the patronage of which is in the Drakes of Agmondesham. The number of houses at present in the parish amount to 1200; the number of inhabitants about 6000.

DEPTFORD, ST. PAUL'S.—This is the new parish, according to the division which took place in 1730. There is nothing more remarkable in this parish than its very surprising increase of population. It at present consists of no less than 2300 houses, and consequently, according to the usual mode of calculation, contains 11,500 inhabitants.

The Victualling-house, which anciently bore the appellation of the Red-house, and which always contains prodigious quantities of provisions, as well as of stores of various kinds, stands in this parish. The other buildings of any importance are the Telegraph erected by government in 1795; a private dock-yard, which belongs to Sir Frederick Evelyn; a very elegant church, which contains many beautiful monuments; and meeting-houses belonging to dissenters of different descriptions.

The church is a rectory, not charged in the king's books. According to Ecton, the first presentation was in the gift of the crown. The last person who presented was John Thornton, Esq. in 1775.

Almost the whole of the first-mentioned parish of St. Nicholas is covered with houses; whereas the parish of St. Paul's is said to contain several hundred acres of arable land, a great proportion of which is occupied by gardeners, who constantly supply the London markets with vegetables of every kind.

It is not precisely ascertained what portion of Deptford is claimed by the county of Surry; we have, therefore, contented ourselves with the general mention of the fact, that part of it lies in Kent, and part in Surry.

C H A R L T O N.

THIS village is also in the hundred of Blackheath; it is seven miles from London, and two from Greenwich. The manor-house is of great antiquity, and is mentioned in this place because it is the residence of the princess of Wales in her absence from Carleton-house; and sorry we are to say, that it is very inadequate to her pretensions, whether we consider her rank, her accomplishments, or her virtues.

In this place a great fair was anciently held, called Horn-fair, which is still kept up, though with some deviation from its former solemnities.

The noble mansion erected by Sir Gregory Page, consisting of a grand centre and two wings, with elegant colonnades, and embellished with a collection of paintings of considerable value, was also in this parish. It was called Wrickles-marsh-house. Part has been taken down and sold in lots, part still remains in melancholy ruin.

There are about 100 houses in the parish, and 500 inhabitants: and the population continues to increase.

It is a rectory, the patronage of which is in private hands. The church is a plain and simple structure, in the chancel of which are some neat monuments.

There is a charitable erection in the parish of Charlton which deserves particular mention: this is Morden-college. The founder was Sir John Morden; and its object was a place of retirement for tradesmen of the more respectable kind, who had been unfortunate in business. The estates appropriated to the maintenance of these rather exceed, than fall short of 1600*l.* a year. It was originally intended for Turkey merchants; but as there is provision for thirty individuals, this rule is not strictly observed: all, however, must be members of the established church, and not less than fifty years of age. Their allowance in money is about 25*l.* a year; their other advantages, exclusive of their apartments, cannot be estimated at less than ten more. The chapel is a plain, neat building, decorated with the portraits of Sir John and Lady Morden. The patrons of this charity are the Turkey company; but in case this company should cease to exist, the trustees are to be selected from the right honourable the East India company.

The manor of Kidbrooke is also in the parish of Charlton. It was formerly the residence of different noble families. It is now the property of lord Eliot, and the manor-house has been converted into a farm.

W O O L W I C H.

WOOLWICH lies to the eastward of Charlton, and is also in the hundred of Blackheath. Etymologists are much divided with respect to its name. It is sometimes in very old charters written Hulviz, which has successively undergone the variations of Wollewic, Wulwicke, and Woolwich.

The town is agreeably situated on the banks of the river, and is at the distance of nine miles from the metropolis. It is not a little singular that part of this parish lies on opposite banks of the Thames, yet the whole is said to be in the county of Kent.

The dock-yard which has been established at Woolwich, and is still progressively improving, and to which the place owes its principal importance, is said by some writers to be the most ancient in the kingdom. It appears from bishop Gibson's Additions to Camden's Britannia, that the famous ship called Great Harry was built at this place in the reign of queen Mary. This dock-yard is nearly of the same extent with that of Deptford, and regulated in the same manner, that is, not by a resident commissioner, but immediately by the Navy board. There is also a very large and extensive rope-walk; and, what must by no means be passed over without particular mention, a gun-wharf, which formerly stood in the market-place, but is now at the Warren. At this Warren all kinds of artillery are both cast and proved, and in peaceable times the guns of our men of war are here also deposited.

A very honourable and useful establishment for the education of young men who are intended for the engineer service, has long existed here. The students have the title of cadets, and are usually of the more respectable families. Barracks have been erected here by government for the accommodation of the regiment of artillery, of which Woolwich is the head-quarters.

Many of our largest ships of war, from the time of Elizabeth to the present period, have been built at Woolwich; one in particular, called after that sovereign, is mentioned by Strype in his Annals. Another built in 1637, is described with every circumstance of minute particularity by Haywood the comedian. The following extract is curious enough to deserve insertion:—"She was one thousand six hundred and thirty-seven tons burden, besides tonnage; one hundred and twenty-eight feet long, and forty-eight feet broad; from the fore end of the beak head to the after end of the stern, one hundred and fifty-two feet; from

" the

“ the bottom of the keel to the top of the lantern, seventy-six feet. She had five
 “ lanterns, of which the biggest would hold ten persons, standing upright ; three
 “ flush-decks, a forecastle, half-deck, quarter-deck, and round-house. The lower
 “ tier had sixty ports, the middle one, thirty, the third twenty-six, the forecastle
 “ twelve, half-deck fourteen, and as many more within, besides ten pieces of
 “ chase ordnance forward, and ten right aft, as well as many loop-holes in the
 “ cabin for muskets. She had also eleven anchors, one of which weighed four
 “ thousand four hundred pounds. This royal ship was curiously carved and gilt
 “ with gold ; and the Dutch, from the slaughter and havoc her cannon made
 “ among them, called her the Golden Devil.”

Of 650 acres which the parish of Woolwich is said to contain, there are no less than 380 on the coast of Essex. It is probable that some distinguished personage obtained a grant of the whole in remoter times, and caused it to be united to his own county ; something similar to this having taken place with regard to the episcopal palace of the bishops of Winchester situated in Chelsea.

The population of Woolwich has long been increasing. The number of houses amounts to 1200 : the number of inhabitants considerably exceeds 6000.

The parish church is a plain neat building, which in the inside is of Grecian architecture. It was one of the fifty built according to act of parliament in the reign of queen Anne.

It is a rectory, in the diocese of Rochester, and patronage of the bishop. The present rector is the Rev. George Andrew Thomas, nephew of doctor Thomas, the late bishop.

There are several meeting-houses in Woolwich, belonging to the different sects of presbyterians, anabaptists, and methodists. There is also a charity-school for girls, and an alms-house for poor widows, under the patronage of the Goldsmiths' company.

The largest ships may ride in safety near the town, the river in this place being remarkably deep, and at high water near a mile broad. Before we leave this place, it is necessary to observe, that hulks for convicts are here stationed. These miserable people are employed in heaving ballast, and other laborious occupations ; and often, when the period of their punishment is at an end, return to their former habits and companions with increased obduracy of principle, and diminished terror of the consequences of their crimes.

ELTHAM.

E L T H A M.

THIS place merits more than common attention, both on account of its antiquity, and because it was anciently a residence of the sovereigns of England.

In remoter records it is denominated Eltham Mandeville, because in part it was the property of the family of that name. After the decapitation of Charles the First, the manor of Eltham was seized by the parliament, but at the Restoration it came into the hands of Sir John Shaw, and in his family it still continues.

The ruins of this once magnificent palace are still respectable, and serve to convey a strong impression of the ravages of time. In this place resided Henry the Third, Edward the Second, Edward the Third, Richard the Second, with a great many of their successors to the time of Elizabeth. The adjoining park was very spacious, and was said to contain 600 acres, well stocked with deer, and from which timber to the value of 5000*l.* was cut before the year 1660. In the time of Henry the Seventh, we learn from a record in the office of arms, that the king was constantly resident in this palace, and dined in the great hall. In this hall none were allowed to dine but the officers of arms, on account of the plague which at that time prevailed in the metropolis. When the second course was served up, it was preceded by a herald, who proclaimed the king's titles. At this palace also, a king of Armenia, named Leo, who had been expelled from his dominions by the Turks, was entertained with splendid hospitality by Richard the Second.

To the manor of Eltham have been annexed the manor of Henle or Henleys, the manors of West Horne, East Horne, and Corbye-hall.

The church is a plain building, with a spire, and contains many curious monuments; among the most remarkable of which is one to the memory of Ann, wife of Richard Owen, D. D. vicar, who died in 1653, which has this conclusion:—

*“ In solatium fati quantulumcunque poni tandem curavit hoc marmor tot summæ spei
 “ liberis superstes pater, expulsus hinc olim rebellibus, idem Ricardus Owen, S. T. P.
 “ annos numerans 73, ipse brevi secuturus. Eadem et te fors manet, lector: vigila;
 “ nescis quâ horâ.”*

In the church-yard is the tomb of that pious and excellent prelate Dr. Horne, bishop of Norwich. Here also was buried that gallant officer Sir William James, in whose honour his amiable widow, lady James, has erected, upon Shooter's-hill, a triangular tower of the elevation of near fifty feet; an interesting and striking object to the surrounding country. Another person also was here interred of no small

note in his day, and the memory of whom is not likely soon to be obliterated—this is Dogget the comedian. For many years before his death he gave a coat and silver badge to be rowed for by six young watermen on the expiration of their apprenticeship; and at his death he bequeathed a sum of money to perpetuate the custom.

The advowson of the vicarage is in the hands of Sir Gregory Page Turner, and it has lately been augmented by queen Anne's bounty. The present vicar is the Rev. John Kennard Shaw.

The population of the parish seems to be on the increase; there are at present somewhat more than 240 houses, and about 1200 inhabitants.

SOUTHEND is a hamlet in the manor of Eltham, in which is a mansion of great antiquity. Mottingham, or Mottingham, belongs partly to Eltham, and partly to Chislehurst; which last place we are induced to mention on account of a remarkable sinking in of the earth, which happened here in 1585, and which is thus mentioned in Fuller's Worthies of England:

“ On the 4th of August 1585, betimes in the morning, in the hamlet of Mottingham, in the parish of Eltham, the ground began to sink in a field belonging to Sir Percival Hart, so much that three great elm trees were swallowed into the pit; and before ten of the clock no part of them could be seen. The compass of the hole was about eighty yards, and it was suddenly filled with water.”

We must by no means conclude our account of Eltham without making some mention of Shooter's-hill, which is at the north-east end of this parish, on the high road from London to Canterbury. In earlier times this was a famous haunt for robbers, nor can we truly say that in this respect modern times have much amended it.

This place probably derived its name from the circumstance of its being a place of exercise for archers. We have here an opportunity of correcting an error into which Mr. Lysons has inadvertently fallen, who makes this the scene of Falstaff's merry but licentious exploit, whereas it was Gad's-hill, near Rochester. The road, always steep and difficult, was not so improved as to be secure till about the year 1739.

Upon the summit of this hill is a remarkable mineral spring, which it is said that the severest frost of our hardest winters has never been able to congeal. A detached account of this spring was published in 1673 by a writer of the name of Godbid.

It seems only necessary to add, that Eltham was in remoter times written Ealdham, the signification of which is obvious at first sight; *eald* meaning old, and

ham a dwelling. It is in the hundred of Blackheath, and at the distance of about eight miles from London. Agricultural writers assign to this parish a space of about 2900 acres: of this considerably more than half is arable. The soil is unequal, being in some parts gravel, in others clay; a large portion also is woodland. There were anciently annual fairs, and a market every Tuesday; but these have all been discontinued. It has the reputation of being a healthy situation, and is much frequented, on account of its pleasantness, by visitors from town.



L E E.

THE next place which presents itself to our notice is Lee. This is an agreeable and retired village in the hundred of Blackheath, and at the distance of six miles from London. Its Latin name is Laga, which means a retired or sheltered spot, an appellation in the present instance not unhappily applied.

There are not many particulars annexed to the village of sufficient importance to detain the reader.

The church is a very ancient building, and seems to call aloud to be repaired, or rather rebuilt. It is a rectory, and in the gift of the crown, and at present is held, *in commendam*, by Dr. Courtenay, bishop of Exeter. Among other tombs in the parish church and adjoining cemetery, are those of the celebrated astronomer Dr. Halley, of that eminent citizen Sir Samuel Fludyer, and of Parsons, the humourous comedian. We are somewhere informed that Purchas, famous in the annals of our literary history for writing his *Collection of Voyages*, was an inhabitant of this parish.

At present there are not more than 50 houses, and about 300 inhabitants in Lee; but its convenient distance, and agreeable situation, promise a speedy increase of population; and we observe the foundation of some new buildings already in progress. The extent of the parish is comprehended in 1060 acres, or thereabouts; which are almost equally divided between arable and pasture.

At the west extremity of Lee are a number of alms-houses, founded by Charles Boone, Esq. and Mary his wife, and left to the patronage of the Merchant Taylors' company. It is ordered by the donor that the rector of the parish should be chaplain, with a salary of 10*l.* a year; but as the present rector is a bishop, he probably condescends neither to the duty nor the salary.

L E W I S H A M.

THE name of this place is a Saxon combination, and is formed of *leswe* or *lesew*, which signifies a mansion among meadows, and of *ham*, the meaning of which is sufficiently obvious. This is the last village in the hundred of Blackheath, and is about six miles from London.

Lewisham was given by the niece of king Alfred to the abbey of St. Peter, at Ghent. This grant was confirmed by William the Conqueror; but in the reign of Henry the Eighth it shared the fate of similar endowments. The manor passed through various hands; it came, with the rectory and appendages, to admiral George Legge, who lived at the conclusion of Charles the Second's reign, and who was afterwards created baron Dartmouth of Dartmouth: with this family it still remains.

CATFORD MANOR forms also a part of this parish. This, in remoter times, belonged to a family of the name of Abot; from whom it has variously descended, till finally it rests in the possession of the right hon. lord Eliot.

There are other various premises, such as Brockley-farm, and Billingham; but they are of less note.

The principal thing to attract the notice of travellers is the extraordinary length of this village; it extends nearly to the length of a mile. The parish is of large extent; and the common which belongs to it on Blackheath on one side, and on Sydenham on another, is little less than 1000 acres.

The church is a new and handsome structure. It was erected in 1774, and is adorned with various elegant monuments; among the more conspicuous of which are those of the Petrie family, and of the pious and learned Dr. Stanhope, who was vicar of this parish for a period little short of forty years. The patronage is with the Dartmouth family, and the name of the present vicar is the Rev. Henry Jones, M. A.

The parish register contains some amusing anecdotes, and we are informed among other whimsical incidents, that in 1791 a woman was here interred, whose coffin was six feet ten inches long, three feet five inches wide, and two feet six inches deep. Here also was buried bishop Duppa, and Mr. Richard Buckley, to whose villa, as it appears from the Progresses of queen Elizabeth, that fanciful princess went a maying on May-day 1602.

There is an excellent free-school established in this place, under the patronage of the Leatherfellers' company. The master of this seminary must be examined and approved by the respective masters of Westminster, St. Paul's, and Merchant Taylors' schools: the school is with a seeming impropriety denominated the Blackheath Free-school.

Sydenham is a hamlet belonging to this parish, which anciently was called *Cypenham*. This place has of late years increased very considerably, both in population and wealth, which is to be imputed to the fortunate discovery of some mineral springs. A dissertation on the virtues of these waters was published by a writer of the name of John Peter in 1681. They appear greatly to resemble the Epsom waters in quality, being of a gently purgative nature. They generally go by the name of Dulwich wells, from their vicinity to that place; where, however, another mineral spring of similar qualities has since been discovered. This spring is the property of the earl of Dartmouth, who has an elegant mansion on Blackheath, where his lordship occasionally resides.

There is a mill in Lewisham for the purpose of making cloth in a new and particular manner, which we believe has answered the expectations formed of it. There is also a mustard mill. Formerly, by the interposition of lord Dartmouth, a market was held twice in the week on Blackheath, a part of which is in this parish. These are now abolished, and in their room there are two fairs for cattle, one in May, the other in October.

The river Ravensbourne runs through this parish, and nearly from south to north.

Lewisham, which is an agreeable and cheerful spot, and in which are many elegant mansions and opulent inhabitants, concludes our account of the hundred of Blackheath.

HUNDRED OF BROMLEY AND BECKENHAM.

THIS hundred is in Doomsday-book denominated the Hundred of Bromley; there spelt Bromlei. The name of Beckenham was added to it in the twentieth year of the reign of Edward III. Beckenham, it must be observed, is not wholly in the county of Kent; a part of it lies in Surry.

The hundred is divided into the two parishes of Bromley and Beckenham, of which we shall speak in order as they stand—and first of

B R O M L E Y.

THE Saxon name of Bromley was Brom-leag ; the meaning of which is a spot where broom grows ; and, indeed, it well deserves its name ; for there is not even the smallest uncultivated place in the neighbourhood of the town, on which broom is not found in abundance.

The first thing which claims notice in our account of Bromley, is the bishop's mansion. The bishop of Rochester was formerly lord paramount of the hundred of Bromley, in conjunction with the sovereign, and had a residence in the town at a period very distant. The old palace was at different times repaired and adorned by bishops Atterbury and Wilcocks ; but the late bishop, Dr. Thomas, pulled it entirely down, and erected a plain house of brick. In the grounds which belong to the episcopal house, is a curious medicinal spring, which has long gone by the name of St. Blaze's well. It was formerly of considerable note ; for a chapel stood near it, in which whoever performed their devotions on the three holydays of Pentecost, were entitled to certain remittances of penance. After the Reformation, the chapel fell to ruins, and St. Blaze was almost forgotten ; but in 1756 a second discovery was made of the water, and an account of its chalybeate virtues published by a surgeon, whose name was Thomas Reynolds.

The bishops of Rochester appear to have been lords of the manor of Bromley from a period so remote in our history as 1076, and indeed before. It was bestowed upon the diocesan by Ethelbert, king of Kent ; it was again taken away by Ethelred the son of Ethelbert ; and after the conquest recovered to the see by the interposition of archbishop Lanfranc.

The different premises in the parish of Bromley, which seem to require notice, are what is called the manor of Simpfons, the property of lord Gwydir ; Freeland's, the lease of which belongs to Thomas Raikes, Esq. ; and Bickley, where the late opulent Peter Thelluffon, Esq. lived and died.

The church of Bromley is a large and commodious structure, having two aisles, and containing some very ancient and curious monuments. Different bishops of Rochester have been here interred : Elizabeth, the wife of Dr. Johnson, also lies here, over whose tomb is the following epitaph written by the Doctor :

“ *Hic conduntur reliquæ Elizabethæ antiqua Jarvisiorum gente, Peatlingæ
“ apud Leicestrienses ortæ, formosæ, cultæ, ingeniosæ, piæ, uxoris primis nuptiis*

“ *Henrici Porter, secundis Samuelis Johnson, qui multum amatam denique desletam*
 “ *hoc lapide contextit. Obiit Londini, mense Mart. A. D. 1753.*”

Dr. Hawkesworth, the elegant author of the *Adventurer*, and of many other works, lived at Bromley, and was interred in the church. With this gentleman Dr. Johnson frequently resided, and at his house many of the most excellent papers of the *Rambler* were composed. Maundrel, the celebrated traveller, whose interesting account of his Journey from Aleppo to Jerusalem is in such deserved estimation, was formerly curate of Bromley.

Bromley is an elegant town, increasing daily in population and wealth. There are at present more than 360 houses, and not less than 1800 inhabitants. Many opulent merchants and gentlemen reside in this town and its vicinity; consequently its market, which is held weekly, on a Thursday, is much frequented, and well provided. But before we take leave of Bromley, it will be indispensable to make honourable mention of its most excellent charity, entitled,

BROMLEY COLLEGE.

This institution was founded here by Warner, bishop of Rochester, in 1637. Its object is the maintenance of twenty widows, whose husbands must have been members of the established church, and distinguished for their scrupulous adherence to orthodoxy. There is also a chaplain, who has an appointment of 60*l.* a year; the widows have each of them 30*l.*

The sum bequeathed by the founder would not have been adequate to the accomplishment of his intentions; but fortunately, since his death, the fund has been considerably increased by the generous contributions of different individuals. The original sum left for this benevolent purpose was 450*l.* *per annum*. In addition to this, the executors of the donor's will, Sir Philip Warwick and lord chief justice Bridgman, gave each 100*l.*; Dr. Plume also left 100*l.*; archbishop Tennison, 100 guineas; Mr. Wilcocks, son of the bishop, enclosed it with a wall at no trifling expense. Mrs. Wolfe also, mother of the gallant general Wolfe, left 500*l.* for the express purpose of putting the college in repair. Two gentlemen, who were brothers, and whose names were Hetherington, were great benefactors, to the amount of 2000*l.*; and Dr. Pearce bequeathed no less than 5000*l.* Old South Sea annuities.

The chaplain must belong to Magdalen college, Oxford; at which place bishop

Warner

Warner himself was educated. His salary has lately been increased by the interest of 200*l.* in the 3 *per cents.* left by the late chaplain, Mr. Bagshaw.

There are fourteen trustees, of whom seven are official, and seven elective. The official trustees are, his grace the archbishop of Canterbury, the bishops of London and Rochester, the archdeacon and chancellor of the diocese, the dean of St. Paul's, and the dean of the arches.

But Bromley has also to boast of another useful and important institution, which is a charitable feminary, where thirteen boys, and an equal number of girls, are clothed and educated. The funds for the maintenance of the school are derived, partly from annual subscriptions and a charity sermon, and partly from the interest of 2000*l.* stock in the 3 *per cents.*, given for this purpose by different benefactors.

We may finish our account of Bromley by observing, that it is on the Tunbridge road, and at the precise distance of ten miles from the metropolis.

B E C K E N H A M.

WE commence with the presumed etymology of the name of the place about to be described. A stream runs through the parish of Beckenham, from whence it takes its appellation; *bec* signifying a brook, and *ham* a dwelling.

The manor of Beckenham passed through a variety of hands, till it came into the possession of the St. John family. John Cator, Esq. obtained it by purchase of Frederick lord Bolingbroke. This gentleman is the present possessor; he has built a noble mansion, which he calls Beckenham-place, and in which he resides. There are different premises in this parish, known by the names of Fox-grove farm, Langley-park, Kent-house, and Kelseys.

Fox-grove farm was the property of the family whose name it retains. This also is now the property of the above-mentioned John Cator, Esq.

The proprietor of Langley-park is the right hon. lord Gwydir; he inherits the place by descent from Jones Raymond, Esq., to whom it came in succession from Ralph Langley, who died in 1451.

Kent-house belongs to John Julius Angerstein, Esq. Formerly, and for a long period, it was the residence of the ancient family of the Letheulliers.

Kelseys is also the property of lord Gwydir.

Beckenham church is much admired for its exceeding great neatness. The spire
is

is modern. In 1790 it received considerable damage in a tempest ; but the other part of the edifice is of considerable antiquity. The spire has an agreeable effect to a spectator, from its being covered with pieces of wood one over another, in the manner of tiles, which are termed shingles. Lord Bolingbroke, when he sold the manor, reserved to himself and heirs the right of presenting to the rectory : this, however, we learn he has since alienated. The church is in the deanery of Dartford and diocese of Rochester, and consecrated to St. George. It contains some ancient and curious monuments. The family of the Styles of Langley is of great antiquity, and various achievements and carved coats of arms belonging to them are found in different parts of the church. The south aisle in particular was entirely built by Oliver Style, and here was the family place of interment. But we should ill deserve the commendation of the reader, if we omitted to transcribe a beautiful inscription written by Gray the poet, and to be found on the monument of Mrs. Jane Clarke :

“ Lo ! where this silent marble weeps,
A friend, a wife, a mother sleeps ;
A heart within whose sacred cell
The peaceful Virtues lov'd to dwell :
Affection warm, and faith sincere,
And soft humanity was there :
In agony, in death, resign'd,
She felt the wound she left behind.
Her infant image here below,
Sits smiling on a father's woe ;
Whom what awaits, while yet he strays
Along the lonely vale of days ?
A pang, to secret sorrow dear,
A sigh, an unavailing tear,
Till time shall every grief remove,
With life, with mem'ry, and with love.”

Some curious anecdotes might be extracted from the register of this, and, indeed, of every other parish ; but we are fearful of too far extending our limits. We cannot, however, forbear mentioning, that the gallant Sir Piercy Brett spent the latter part of his life in this parish, and was buried in this church. An individual of a far different kind of celebrity was also here interred in 1740. This was the famous Margaret Finch, who was styled Queen of the Gipsies. Her majesty was, in all respects, a most singular personage. From the habit of sitting
upon

upon the ground, with her chin upon her knees, her sinews were rendered so stiff, that she was unable to rest in any other attitude. Instead of a coffin, her friends were obliged to place her dead body in a deep box of a square form. Her portrait has been engraved, and may be seen in most collections. She was succeeded in her titles and honours by her daughter and grand-daughter, which last still survives.

The charities in this parish are not responsible to the opulence or rank of its inhabitants: and we have only to tell of three mean alms-houses, and these have no endowment; and of a charity-school, which depends on the too precarious produce of voluntary contribution. There is a whimsical benefaction from a gentlewoman of the name of Wragg, of fifteen pounds a year, the first object of which, is the keeping her own tomb in decent repair.

The population of Beckenham for the last three years seems to be stationary. There are from 140 to 150 houses, and the number of inhabitants is about 700.

The soil of this place is clay, mixed occasionally with gravel, and sometimes with loam. It is principally meadow, and has but a very small proportion of waste land. The distance from London-bridge is about nine miles and a half.

HUNDRED OF RUXLEY.

THIS hundred lies to the north-east of the hundred of Bromley, and contains fifteen parishes: These are, 1. Chesham or Chislehurst (in part); 2. Hayes; 3. West Wickham; 4. Keston; 5. Farnborough; 6. Downe; 7. Cowdham; 8. Nockholt; 9. Chelsfield; 10. Orpington; 11. St. Mary's Cray; 12. Paul's Cray; 13. Foot's Cray; 14. North Cray, with Ruxley; 15. Bexley.—This division, however, is not given as perfectly correct; for this hundred also contains part of the parishes of Chidingstone and Hever; but not the churches of these two places.

C H I S L E H U R S T.

WE shall take the towns above enumerated, according to the order in which they severally follow, and consequently begin with Chislehurst.

This is a most beautiful village; the woods are so agreeably interspersed with cultivated

cultivated fields, and the seats and mansions of opulent individuals, that a more picturesque and interesting scene cannot easily be found.

The name of the place is spelt very variously. It is written in all the following changes: Cifelhyrst, Chyslehurst, Chifelhurst, Chefelhurst, &c. till it becomes, by common consent of modern times, fixed to Chislehurst. The different manors in the parish are those of Chislehurst, Scadbury, Tang-court, with the seats of Frogna! or Frogpool, and Camden-place. All the manors have passed through the hands of different possessors, till they have ultimately concentrated in lord viscount Sidney, who has an elegant mansion at Frogna!, which he frequently honours with his residence.

Camden-place is of some celebrity. Here it was that the great antiquary William Camden wrote his Annals. It now gives a title to the noble family of Camden; but is at present inhabited by William Lushington, Esq. alderman of, and member for, the city of London.

The parish church is an object of some curiosity; it is built of flint stones, and has altogether a singular appearance. Some of the monuments which it contains are of great antiquity; one in particular, in the north-east corner of the north aisle, merits more than common attention. It is beautifully adorned with acorns, roses, and gilt foliage; and it is constructed beneath two arches, which two Corinthian pillars support. Within one of these arches is the inscription, which we have transcribed:

“ D. O. M.

Erected to the memorie of Sir EDMUND WALSINGHAM.

A Knight, sometyme of worthie fame,
Lyeth buried under this stony bower,
Sir Edmund Walsingham was his name,
Leutenant he was of London Tower;
Serving therein twenty-two yeares space,
Continually in his prince's good grace.

The 9th of February, 1549, fully runne,
The soule from the body parted was,
Leaving three daughters and one sonne,
Marie, Alis, Elliner, and Thomas;
Which Thomas, now Knight, this erected the rather,
In memory of Sir Edmund his father.”

Beneath the other arch is an inscription in Latin, a considerable part of which is defaced and illegible; but we learn from what remains, that it commemorates a

Sir Thomas Walsingham, the sixth of his family, who died in 1630. The great Sir Francis Walsingham was of this family.

The other monuments most worth attention in the church, are those of Sir Philip Warwick; Sir Richard Adams, baron of the exchequer; and of Albina dutchess of Ancafter. The inscription on the tomb of Sir Philip Warwick was written by Dr. Pearce, dean of Salisbury. It records, in simple language, the character and merits of Sir Philip. Chislehurst had also the honour of producing that most eminent statesman, Sir Nicholas Bacon, the father of Sir Francis Bacon.

Chislehurst is a rectory, in the gift of the bishop of Rochester. The present incumbent is the Rev. Mr. Wollaston.

The population of the village seems in a state of progressive increase. There are at present 200 houses, and several more are erecting. The number of inhabitants may be computed at more than a thousand.

There are many opulent individuals in the parish; but there are nevertheless not many charities to record. Twelve girls are clothed and educated, and a separate institution provides for the education of six boys.

We again repeat, that a more delightful spot than this of Chislehurst is seldom to be found. The soil is principally gravel, and remarkably dry and healthy. On this account, as well as from its convenient distance from the metropolis, being rather less than twelve miles, we may venture to predict, that it will be more and more the resort of our nobility, gentry, and opulent merchants.

H A Y E S.

THE next place we have to describe is Hayes, a small but pleasant village; which in our more ancient books is written *Hese*. Hayes-place, which is not far from the church, was formerly the residence of the great lord Chatham. This eminent man having left this place for Burton Pynsent, was uneasy till he procured the opportunity of returning to it again. He was so delighted with the spot, that his latter days were entirely employed in improving and adorning it. After his death it passed from different proprietors to lord Lewisham, eldest son of the earl of Dartmouth, who here indulges his taste for the science of botany, in which he eminently excels.

The church is plain and small, without any monuments worth notice, except

one perhaps on the floor, of a Sir John Andrew, formerly rector of Hayes—over it is this inscription :

“ I beseeche you all that passeth here by,
For the soule of Sir John Andrew that here doth lye,
Say a Pater Noster and an Ave.”

Hayes is a rectory, in the gift of the rector of Orpington. The name of the present incumbent is John Till, L. L. B.

The village contains about 70 houses, and 400 inhabitants. There is a charity-school, at which all the children in the parish are taught to read, and the girls plain work. There is also a whimsical contribution by Sir Samuel Lennard, of forty shillings annually, to be given to forty poor persons who shall attend a sermon on the anniversary of the Popish Plot, which is preached at the church of West Wickham.

There is a great deal of waste land in Hayes ; but it contains near a thousand acres which are well cultivated. Its distance from London is twelve miles.

W E S T W I C K H A M.

THIS village is so denominated to distinguish it from two other villages of the same name in this county. Its etymology is probably Saxon ; *wic* signifying a way, and *ham*, a dwelling.

The manor is the property of John Farnaby, Esq. in right of his wife ; to whom it has descended from various proprietors since it was held by Godric of Edward the Confessor. The court of the dutchy of Lancaster has claims in part of this manor, and on the lands which are called Spring-park, Old-park, Frithwood, and Chamber's-grove.

The church is a plain neat structure, which was rebuilt in the reign of Henry the Seventh by Sir Henry Heydon. A figure of a skeleton, intended to represent this Sir Henry, is to be seen stained on glass in the east window of the north aisle. A label issues from its mouth, upon which this inscription is visible : “ *Ne re-miniscaris, Domine, delicta mea, aut par * * **.”

The church is in the patronage of the lord of the manor ; and the present incumbent is the Rev. Joseph Faulder.

A singular custom prevails in this place and its neighbourhood, which seems worth

worth recording. In Rogation week, a troop of young men run about the orchards, with a great noise and tumult, bawling out these lines :—

“ Stand fast, root ; bear well, top ;
God fend us a jouling fop ;
Every twig, apple big,
Every bough, apples enow.”—

For this they expect money or liquor, or both ; and if disappointed, leave the place with a curse, expressed in some such doggrel rhimes. The meaning of the word *jouling* may puzzle more profound antiquaries than we profess to be. Hasted's idea, that it comes from Eolus, god of the winds, is ridiculous enough ; there is much more probably some affinity between the *jouling* of the Kent youths, and the Ule or Jule games, so frequent in the northern parts of this kingdom. Dr. Hammond has an opinion that it comes immediately from the Latin word *jubilum*, which means a time of festivity ; which explanation may serve till some one shall point out a better.

There are about 80 houses in West Wickham, and from 4 to 500 inhabitants. The soil is very various, but the land is principally arable. The distance from London-bridge is thirteen miles.

The learned and amiable Gilbert West, author of different works, long resided at West Wickham, where he was visited by Lyttelton and Pitt ; and where, as Dr. Johnson informs us, he received that conviction which produced the Dissertation on the Conversion of St. Paul. Mr. West placed the following lines from Ausonius in a pleasure-house :

“ Hæc mihi nec procul urbe sita est, nec prorsus ad urbem,
Ne patiar turbis, utque bonis potiar,
Et quoties mutare locum fastigia cogunt
Transeo, et alternis rure vel urbe fruor.” *Ausonius ad Villam.*

“ Not wrapt in smoky London's sulph'rous clouds,
And not far distant, stands my rural cot ;
Neither obnoxious to intruding crowds,
Nor for the good and friendly too remote.

“ And when too much repose brings on the spleen,
Or the gay city's idle pleasures cloy ;
Swift as my changing wish, I change the scene,
And now the country, now the town enjoy.”

K E S T O N.

THIS place was anciently written Chestan, a corruption, not improbably, of Chesterton, or the place of a camp, of which remains are still visible upon Holwood-hill.

Keston is a village of small importance, and chiefly memorable for the antiquities above mentioned, and for being the favourite retreat of the right hon. William Pitt, from the distractions of politics, and cares of public business. In this place he indulges himself in his favourite pursuits; and in the improvement of his grounds, and cultivation of his little farm, acquires new elasticity and energy; hence he returns——

“ Certare ingenio, contendere nobilitate, rerumque potiri.”

The house itself is very small, and, from its appearance, but little suited to the dignity, talents, and virtues of its owner. Mr. Pitt has, however, added one large room, which has a spacious bow window, looking towards the south. The prospect from the house is enchanting; it stands on a gentle eminence, and commands a view of Bromley, Norwood, Sydenham, Dulwich, Peckham, and St. Paul's: from another aspect, the spectator can look from Shooter's-hill to Gravesend: and again from another point over no inconsiderable part of Essex. It is altogether a lovely spot, and justifies the taste of its illustrious owner. The reader will smile at the vicissitudes of fortune and mutability of life, on being told that the mansion,

“ Where nobly pensive Pitt reclin'd and thought,”

was heretofore the residence of the gay, dissipated, and licentious Mrs. Bellamy, whose Memoirs for a time attracted so much curiosity.

The manor of Keston was one of those donations which William the Conqueror bestowed on Odo earl of Kent, his half-brother. From him, through various hands, it passed to the family of Lennard, with whose daughter it now remains.

The ancient camp above alluded to is of great extent, and almost two miles in circumference. So great a variety of Roman antiquities, consisting of coins, Roman tiles and bricks, have been dug up on the spot, that its origin and use cannot be disputed. Horsley treats on the subject very much at large, and supposes it to have been the *Castra Æstiva*, or summer quarters. Other writers think that this was the camp of Julius Cæsar, when the Britons fought him for the last time

before

before he passed the Thames ; but the opinions on this head are too various and contradictory for us to decide on a question which, after all, is of no great importance to the object we have professedly in view.

Keston is a rectory, in the gift of his grace the archbishop of Canterbury. The church is small and neat ; but the parish does not contain any thing to justify the detaining our readers any longer than to inform them, that some have fancied Keston to be an abbreviation of Keyser's-town or Cæsar's-town ; for the Britons always pronounced Cæsar—Kæsar.

F A R N B O R O U G H.

FARNBOROUGH is contiguous to Keston eastward. Originally, perhaps, it was Fearnborough, or Fernborough, from the quantity of fern which still springs up on every waste spot of ground. It appears that in the reign of Henry III. Farnborough belonged to Simon de Montfort, the great earl of Leicester ; and in 1766, Sir Edward Walpole procured a grant of the manor under the seal of the dutchy court of Lancaster, the liberty of which claims over this parish. Farnborough-hall is the property of Sir John Dyke, and so is the estate which belongs to it. There is also another domain in this parish, of very considerable antiquity, which is called Tubbendens.

Farnborough is a small and inconsiderable place, and its church or chapel is only an adjunct to the rectory of Chelsfield. The turnpike road from the metropolis to Sevenoaks passes immediately through it.

D O W N E.

DOWNE is the next village, and is so called from its lofty situation. It was originally written Dune, which means any thing high or elevated. There is so little to be mentioned concerning this place, that the whole which merits our notice may be comprised in these few particulars.

The patronage of the church or chapel is with the rector of Hayes ; and the rector of Orpington presents both to Hayes and Downe.

Pelteys-place in this parish, though now only a farm-house, was anciently a large and magnificent mansion. There are two other premises, one called Downe-court, another called Palmer's-lands.

C O W D H A M.

NEITHER does this place present any thing particularly worth the reader's attention. We can give no light or information respecting the etymology of the name of this place; it is differently written, Coldham, Cudham, Codeham, and Cowdham.

There are different manors in the parish besides that of Cowdham, viz. Apperfield and Bertrey: a minute discussion on these subjects, and the different hands through which they have passed to the present possessors, better suits the nature of a professed county history, and may accordingly be found in Hasted and other writers.

The advowson is in the crown, and the lord chancellor presents to the vicarage, which in the king's books is valued at 13*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*

N O C K H O L T.

THE parish next in order is Nockholt. This also is an obscure and inconsiderable place. *Holt* means a wood, and *noke* is an old English word for corner, in which sense, with a very little variation (*nuke*), it is still used in the north of England. This means, therefore, the corner of a wood, which in the present instance is peculiarly apposite.

There are two small manors in this parish, one called Shelleys, the other Bramptons. As to its ecclesiastical jurisdiction, it is a perpetual curacy, to which the rectors of Orpington present.

C H E L S F I E L D.

THIS place has been variously denominated Cillesfelle, Ciresfel, Cilesfield, Chellerfeld, and Chelsfield. Its origin with respect to name is beyond all doubt Saxon; *cile* signifying cold, and *feld* a field.

Besides the manor of Chelsfield, the parish contains the different manors of Goddington, Hewitts, and Norsted. The village possesses nothing remarkable. The patronage of the living, which is a rectory, is vested in the warden and fellows of All Souls' college, in Oxford.

O R P I N G T O N.

ORPINTUN, Orpyntone, Orpedingtune (for it is thus variously written in old charters), were severally altered and corrupted from Dorpantum. The village lies to the north of Chelsfield, and contains, besides the manor of Orpington, the manors of Crofton, Mayfield, and East-hall.

The manor of Orpington belongs to the family of the Dykes; Crofton is the property of St. Thomas's hospital, Southwark; East-hall belongs also to Sir John Dyke.

This is a village constantly increasing in population. Within it, rises the river Cray, which runs through the different places to which it gives its name. The archbishop of Canterbury presents to the rectory; the rector presents to the vicarage.

This is one of the places where queen Elizabeth was magnificently received and feasted. She arrived here on the 22d of July 1573; at the entrance a female personage, in the character of a nymph, addressed her majesty in a pertinent speech, in which she denominated herself the genius of the place. (See Nichols's Royal Progresses.) The queen was next entertained with the exhibition of a sea-fight. The owner of the place at this time was Sir Percival Hart, in honour of whom, according to Phillipott, Elizabeth named the place Bark-Hart, which appellation it still retains.

The manor of Crofton was once a separate parish, but it was totally destroyed by fire. It is also reported by tradition, that Thomas à Becket was born in this parish; but this is clearly an error: that prelate was born in the parish of St. Thomas Acres, in London.

 S T. M A R Y C R A Y.

OF the five parishes which remain to be described in this hundred, four are distinguished by the adjunct appellative Cray, from the river Cray above mentioned.

St. Mary Cray is a market town, or rather was; for in 1703 the market-house was destroyed by a tempest, and the market has not since that time been kept. This is somewhat surprising; for as the village is both populous and rich, and as the convenience of a market is so locally beneficial, it would be politic to restore it.

Though

Though this parish is increasing in population, the church is only a chapel of ease to Orpington. The vicar of Orpington is also vicar of St. Mary Cray.

Besides the manor of St. Mary Cray, which nevertheless seems to be only a part of the manor of Orpington, there are the separate manors of St. Mary Lyng Ockmere, Kevington, Hockenden, and Waldens. There are no natural or other curiosities in the place; no local customs, peculiarities, or antiquities, which will justify any further detail.

P A U L ' s C R A Y .

THIS place has been variously denominated Rodolph's Cray, Cray Paulins, and Paulins Cray. The church was consecrated to St. Paulinus, which accounts for the two latter appellations; the cause of the former is unknown to us.

There is still less to be observed in this parish than in the former; it is not so populous, has no manufacture, market, or particular curiosities. The manor was one of those given by the Conqueror to his brother Odo. It now belongs to lord Sidney, who is also the patron of the rectory.

F O O T ' s C R A Y .

IN the reign of Edward the Confessor one Godwin Fot, or Vot, was proprietor of this manor, and from him the place derives its name of Foot's Cray.

Foot's Cray Place is an elegant mansion built from a design of Palladio. It was formerly possessed by Bouchier Cleve, Esq.; from him it descended to Sir George Yonge. It now belongs to a gentleman of the name of Harenc.

The church is a plain and small edifice, without any thing curious within, or in its exterior appearance. The rectory is in the gift of the crown; part of the village is in the parish of Chislehurst. The number of inhabitants does not exceed 120, and it is in all respects an obscure and inconsiderable place.

N O R T H C R A Y .

THIS place is denominated North Cray, because it is the most to the north of the villages to which the name of Cray is annexed.

This manor also was given by William the Conqueror to his brother. It has passed

passed through the hands of various proprietors to the Rev. William Hetherington ; and from him to the heirs of the late Thomas Coventry, Esq.

There is not a more agreeable, healthy, or populous spot than the village of North Cray to be found near the metropolis. It is charmingly diversified with villas and well-cultivated domains. Two in particular merit notice, one called Mount Mascall, the other Vale Mascall. The former stands on a gentle rising ground, which commands the view of an enchanting scene : Vale Mascall is of inferior magnitude, but no less interesting and agreeable. At this spot the river Cray exhibits a picture of a cascade, which is greatly admired, and well deserves to be so for its extraordinary beauty.

The church has a mean appearance ; but the rector has a neat and new-built house, which he owes in a great measure to the liberality of the above-named Mr. Hetherington. The patronage of the living is with the lord of the manor.



B E X L E Y

IS the last place to be described in the hundred of Ruxley. This village has been variously written Becceley, Bekeley, Bekefley, Bixle, and at last Bexley.

This manor came from different possessors to Sir William Camden, who made over his property in it to the university of Oxford, at the end of a limited period, for the express purpose of founding an historical lecture.

There are many ancient seats in this parish, particularly those of Hall-place, Blendon-hall, Lamierby, or, as it is vulgarly called, Lamaby, Danfon-hill, Brampton-hall, and High-street-house. This village is spread out to a considerable extent, and has several hamlets belonging to it. We have called it a village, in compliance with custom ; but its population is so great, and increasing, that it might well enough be named a town. The hamlets of Hurst, Halfway-street, Bridgen, Blendon, Upton, and part of Welling, belong to Bexley.

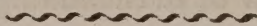
The appearance of the church by no means corresponds with the populousness of the place, or wealth of the inhabitants. It is consecrated to St. Mary, and is in the patronage of lord Sidney.

There are twelve alms-houses in Bexley, built from the produce of private contributions. These, however, are not endowed with any stipend.

A very singular insect made its appearance in a pond belonging to this parish in

1736. Those who are curious in natural history will be entertained with the description which is given of it in the Philosophical Transactions, vol. xi. p. 153.

Our account of this hundred is here brought to a conclusion. It will be found to comprehend a considerable portion of the county; and we believe it will appear, that we have omitted nothing of importance within the limits of those objects which we professed to exhibit to our readers.



HUNDRED OF LITTLE AND LESNES.

THIS hundred is named after the two half hundreds into which it is divided, in like manner with the hundred of Bromley and Beckenham, which we have already noticed, and the hundred of Dartford and Wilmington, which follows next in order.

The hundred of Little and Lesnes was in the reign of Edward the First called the hundred of Litelai, and so also it is denominated in Domesday-book. In the reign of Henry IV. it was called by the name which it still retains.

It is divided into four parishes, distinguished by the names of East Wickham, Plumsted, Erith, and Crayford.

East Wickham must not be confounded with the Wickham near Hayes, of which we have made mention in p. 178. This is but a small and inconsiderable village, containing not more than 40 houses, and somewhat more than 200 inhabitants. The manor once belonged to the family of Lovell; and to that lord Lovell in particular, who was the favourite of the sanguinary Richard the Third, and on whom the famous distich was made—

The rat, the cat, and Lovell the dog,
Rule all England under the hog.

The hog meant Richard, whose crest was a boar. From this family the manor has descended from various proprietors to the Rev. Mr. Bennet.

The parish church is curious, and of considerable antiquity; it is constructed of flint and stone, but its spire is of wood. It is only a chapel of ease to Plumsted; and the great tithes of both parishes belong to a charitable foundation at Chatham, upon which they were settled by Sir John Hawkins.

Part of the village of Welling, through which the high road to Dover passes, lies

lies in the parish of East Wickham ; and there is a charity-school for twenty poor children, the benefits of which are extended to both these places.

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P L U M S T E D.

PLUMSTED is a village of greater importance and magnitude, for it contains near 130 houses, and more than 650 inhabitants.

This place is celebrated for cherries and green peas ; more than 100 acres are occupied for the cultivation of the former, and more than 50 solely for the latter. Here was formerly a weekly market on a Tuesday, and an annual fair which continued for the space of three days ; but these have long ceased.

In this parish are the manors of Plumsted, Burwash or Borwash-court, Bostall, Borstall, or Borton, and Plumsted Acon or Upland. The first is vested in the society of Queen's college, Oxford, to which it was bequeathed by John Michel, Esq. for the maintenance of eight fellows and four scholars. Four under-graduates have since been added to the number. Burwash belongs to a gentleman of the name of Martin, who has a mansion in the parish not far from Woolwich. The Clothworkers' company are owners of the manor of Borstall, not by gift, but by purchase. This manor contains a few scattered houses, and may therefore be considered as a hamlet of Plumsted. The same respectable company are also proprietors of the manor of Plumsted Acon.

The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in New England, and the adjacent Parts, have also an estate in this parish, known by the name of Suffolk-place-farm. The estate which is called Plumsted-park-farm belongs to a merchant of the name of Bouzer.

The church of Plumsted may be considered as a great curiosity ; and the lofty turret in particular, near the north aisle, which has a parapet. Among other curious monuments is one to John Lidgbird, Esq. of Shooter's-hill, and another to John Denham, Esq.

There is no charity-school in this parish, and only a few benefactions to the poor from different individuals. There are not much less than 1000 acres of marsh land, belonging to Plumsted ; the history of which, with the circumstances of their embankments, would fill a volume. They are now left to the management of the commission of sewers.



## E R I T H.

ERITH is the place from which the hundred took its joint name of Lefnes. Antiquarians greatly differ with respect to the etymology of this word—some think it comes from the Saxon word *leswes*, which means pastures; others derive it from *lese*, an old British word for pastures; and *nefe*, which signifies a cape—others again trace it to *erre*, which means ancient; and *bythe*, a Saxon word for harbour; and this last is, in our opinion, the most consistent, and the most probable. In Domesday-book it is written Loifnes, and in some remoter records Hliefnes.

This also was one of the manors appropriated by the Conqueror for the benefit of his brother Odo; it is at present occupied by the family of Wheatley. The places of greatest note in and near this village, are Bedingwall, Hering-hill, Draper's-place, and Belvidere-house; which last mansion is the residence of lord Eardley. Sampson Gideon, father of lord Eardley, obtained this place by purchase of the Baltimore family. This gentleman rebuilt the mansion, and adorned it with a most curious and valuable collection of pictures.

The village itself is of no great consideration. The Indiamen generally stop at this place to get rid of so much of their cargoes as may facilitate their progress up the river. This incident unavoidably makes Erith in some degree populous; at least it is the occasion of its being numerously visited at particular times. There are two annual fairs at Erith, one on Holy Thursday, the other on Michaelmas-day. There is no charity-school, nor any benefactions to the poor, except the interest of 50*l.* bequeathed by a lady.

The church is not within the town, but almost half a mile to the north of it. It is a vicarage, in the diocese of Rochester, and in the gift of the Dashwood family.

There was anciently an abbey in this place named Lefnes-abbey, and founded by Richard de Lucy, who in the reign of Henry the Second was lord chief justice of England. Several stone coffins, and various antiquities, have been here dug up. Nothing can exceed the miserable, melancholy, and dreary appearance of the Essex coast as viewed from Erith; which, however, is agreeably opposed by the rising hills of Plumsted and its vicinity.



## C R A Y F O R D.

CRAYFORD, the last parish in this hundred, receives its name from the river Cray. This river anciently was called Crecca; and the place accordingly, in the time of the Saxons, was named Creccan-ford, the meaning of which is, the passage over the Crecca.

The manor of Crayford, in the reign of king John, was the property of Adam de Port. In 1694 it belonged to the gallant admiral Sir Cloudesley Shovel, whose lamentable fate is thus related by a writer of respectable authority:—" After the  
 " unsuccessful attempt upon Toulon, in which Sir Cloudesley performed all in his  
 " power, he bore away for the Streights, and soon after resolved to return home.  
 " He left Sir Thomas Dilkes at Gibraltar with nine ships of the line, for the  
 " security of the coasts of Italy; and then proceeded with the remainder of the  
 " fleet, consisting of ten ships of the line, four fire-ships, a sloop, and a yacht, for  
 " England. October 22, he came into the soundings, and had ninety fathom  
 " water. About noon he lay by, but at six in the evening he made sail again, and  
 " stood away under his courses, believing, as it is supposed, that he saw the light  
 " on Scilly. Soon after which, several ships of his fleet made the signal of distress,  
 " as he himself did; and several perished, besides the admiral's: there were on  
 " board the Association, with him, his sons-in-law, and many young gentlemen  
 " of quality. His body was thrown ashore the next day upon the island of Scilly,  
 " where some fishermen took him up; and, having stolen a valuable emerald  
 " ring from his finger, stripped and buried him. This coming to the ears of Mr.  
 " Paxton, who was purser of the Arundel, he found out the fellows, declared the  
 " ring to be Sir Cloudesley Shovel's, and obliged them to discover where they had  
 " buried the body, which he took up and carried on board his own ship to Portf-  
 " mouth. It was thence conveyed to London, and buried in Westminster-abbey  
 " with great solemnity, where a monument was afterwards erected to his memory  
 " by the queen's direction.

" Sir Cloudesley Shovel was, at the time of his death, rear-admiral of England,  
 " admiral of the white, commander in chief of her majesty's fleets, and one of  
 " the council to prince George of Denmark, as lord high-admiral of England.  
 " He married the widow of his patron, Sir John Narborough, by whom he left



“two daughters, co-heiresses.”—The manor now belongs to Miles Barne, Esq. of Sotterly, in Suffolk.

There are several places in this parish worthy of notice; and in particular, Howbery, Newbery, and Elham. Howbery, in the reign of Henry the Second, belonged to the noble family of Northwood: in the reign of Henry the Sixth, it was the property of Roger Apylton: a daughter of Sir Cloudesley Shovel conveyed it with her person to John Blackwood, Esq. with whose heirs it now remains. Newbery, in the beginning of the reign of Henry the Sixth, belonged to the family of Poynings: it now belongs, with Howbery, to the heirs of the daughter of Sir Cloudesley Shovel. Elham belonged to a family of the same name. Henry Elham, who possessed it in the reign of Henry the Sixth, was one of the auditors of that monarch. From the Elhams, it descended by purchase to the family of Harman. One of this family sold it to Robert Draper, Esq. The present owner is Miles Barne, Esq. above mentioned.

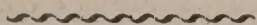
The town of Crayford consists of one long but irregular street. Here was a residence of Sir Cloudesley Shovel; and such is the fate of greatness, it became afterwards a linen manufacturer's warehouse, and is now, or at least a considerable part of it, a workhouse. The river here divides itself into two streams, which severally supply a sufficient quantity of water for a large iron mill, and two considerable manufactories for printing of calicoes. The river flows into the Thames at no great distance from the town of Dartford.

The neighbourhood of this place is memorable in English history for a great and bloody battle between Hengist, the first Saxon king of Kent, and the Britons; Hengist slew four thousand of them, and drove them entirely out of this part of the country. Many of our most learned antiquarians make Crayford the first Roman station from London towards Dover. Certain it is, that the Roman road may be evidently distinguished on Bexley-heath, stretching in a south-east direction towards Crayford. There are also some very curious ancient and deep caves in the woods, heaths, and fields in the vicinity of Crayford, the use and origin of which have been variously explained. Some of these are from fifteen to twenty fathoms in depth, which increase in circumference as they descend, and at the extremity are found to have many large apartments resting upon chalk pillars. They might not improbably have been first dug for the purpose of getting chalk; they might



might afterwards, in times of danger and civil disturbances, have served as hiding-places for the wives, families, and property of those nearest the scene of danger.

The church is a spacious, and not inelegant structure. Its peal of bells is much admired for its melody. The rectory is in the jurisdiction of the diocese of Rochester, and the advowson is in the possession of the heirs of Sir Henry Farmer, Bart. There is a very commodious and handsome parsonage-house. In Ecton's Thesaurus this place is named Earde alias Crayford, and is valued in the king's books at 35*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*



#### HUNDRED OF DARTFORD AND WILMINGTON.

**T**HIS may be said, in some degree, to be a hundred of modern creation. It is not distinguished as a hundred in Domesday-book; but the two parishes of Dartford and Wilmington are represented as constituting a part of the hundred of Axtane.

Dartford is a place of some consideration, as well from its local consequence, as from the many things to be commemorated in its neighbourhood. It is in the direct road from London to Dover, and of course, when the communication was open betwixt this country and France, was a town of great traffic.

The name of the place in Latin is *Derenti Vadum*, the passage over the Derent; and accordingly its Saxon name was Derentford. Its orthography in Domesday-book is seemingly a corruption from Derentford. It is there written Tarentesford.

In remoter times Dartford and its manor was considered as the private property of the sovereign, and in the reign of king John the produce of the rents was paid into the royal exchequer by the sheriff of Kent. It was afterwards presented by the crown to a Norman nobleman of the name of St. Paul. In the reign of Henry the Sixth, it appears to have belonged to the duke of Somerset, but was afterwards given to Neville earl of Warwick by Edward the Fourth. In the reign of Henry the Seventh it belonged to the noble and generous Margaret countess of Richmond and Derby, who was a munificent benefactress to the university of Cambridge, in which place she founded Christ's and St. John's colleges. By the death of this lady it again reverted to the crown, and after passing through the hands of Sir Thomas Walsingham, Sir Robert Darcy, Thomas Yonge, Esq. and others, it became the property of Sir Charles Morgan, with whom it remains.

The



The other manors in this parish are those called Temples, Dartford Priory, Portbridge, Charles, and Baldwins, which last is rather a reputed manor. Temples was anciently the property of the Knights Templars, from whom it took the name which it now bears. This manor also belongs to the above-mentioned Sir Charles Morgan.

The history of Dartford Priory would be of sufficient interest to justify a separate publication; our account of it must be necessarily concise. Edward the Third was its founder, and he gave a large quantity of land for the support of the prioress and convent. These estates were increased and confirmed by succeeding princes to the time of Henry the Eighth, who took possession of the building, and enlarged and adorned it as a place of residence for himself and his successors. Some of the noblest ladies in the kingdom, at different periods, lived in this religious house either as prioresses or nuns. After the death of Henry the Eighth, it became the property of Ann of Cleves, the repudiated wife of that fickle, turbulent, and haughty prince. This illustrious lady possessed these domains till her death, which happened in the fourth year of the reign of Mary. James the First granted this manor in succeeding times to Cecil earl of Salisbury, by way of exchange for his afterwards favourite mansion, known by the appellation of Theobalds. From lord Salisbury it became the property of Sir Robert Darcy, and the present possessor is Sir Charles Morgan.

What was once the priory still preserves a venerable appearance. There is a large gate-house, and what was once the south wing. The old stone walls, which enclosed the garden, also remain. It is now distinguished by the name of The Place-house.

The first proprietor on record of the manor called Portbridge, was a gentleman in the reign of Edward the Third of the name of Bicknore, or Bykenore. In an old rental, in the time of Henry the Eighth, it is denominated the manor of Portbrege, otherwise Bykenores. In Elizabeth's reign it was termed Bignours, a circumstance mentioned here merely to mark the variation of our language. This manor belongs to the same proprietor at present as the premises above mentioned.

The manor of Charles was so called from an ancient family of the same name. It seems to have been granted by Richard the Second to Adam Bamme, Esq. who in that reign was twice lord mayor of London. In 1765 it belonged to Gerard Anne

Edwards,



Edwards, who married lady Jane Noel, a daughter of lord Gainfborough. His heirs are the present owners.

Baldwins, which, as was said above, is a reputed manor only, was so named from a Sir John Baude. Its revenues were given by Henry the Eighth to cardinal Wolfey. This prelate appropriated the estate to the college he founded in Oxford; but on his disgrace it came again into the hands of the king, who afterwards gave it to Eton college. To this honourable foundation it now belongs, and is occupied under it by a gentleman of the name of Hulfe.

Horsfeman's-place is also in this parish, and respectable from its antiquity and the property annexed to it. Since the reign of Edward the Second it has been possessed by Thomas de Luda, Thomas de Shardelow, Thomas Brune or Brown, John Byer or Beer, &c. &c. till about the year 1770 it was purchased by Mr. Sergeant Leigh, in whose family it continues.

Stoneham or Stanham is a hamlet belonging to this parish, and at the distance of three quarters of a mile from Dartford. At the suppression of the monasteries in the reign of Henry the Eighth, that monarch became possessed of Stanham.

Dartford may boast of a most excellent market, which is held every Saturday, and plentifully supplied with provisions of all kinds. There is also a very commodious and spacious market-house, which was erected in consequence of the inconvenient situation and ruinous condition of the old market-house, by the voluntary contributions of the inhabitants of Dartford, and the neighbouring gentry. Dartford is also famous in our history for having had the first paper-mill which was established in England; the name of the proprietor was Sir John Spilman. He lived in the time of Elizabeth; and in the Harleian manuscripts in the British Museum is one which shows—"That John Spilman, her majesty's jeweller, had licence for the sole gathering of rags, &c. necessary for the manufactory of paper for the space of ten years." This paper-mill still remains, and is employed for the making of paper as at its first erection.

There are various other mills in and near Dartford, as well for making of paper, as for gunpowder, for cutting iron bars, &c. All these are worked by the stream of the river Darent, from which the town takes its name, and which at the east extremity crosses the high road, and is passed by a bridge of no mean appearance or inelegant structure.

The famous insurrection of Wat Tyler commenced at Dartford; this dema-



gogue was in a short period joined by one hundred thousand followers. The event and suppression of the rebellion are well known. The circumstance of Tyler's being slain by Walworth, who was lord mayor at the time, is the reason why the sword constitutes a part of the arms of the city of London.

The church is a very spacious, and, in some respects, a handsome edifice. It is a vicarage, in the diocese of Rochester, and in the gift of the bishop. The spot of ground belonging to it, and appropriated for burials, is very singularly circumstanced. It is somewhat remote from the church, and so elevated as to be much higher than the tower.

There are an hospital for the poor, and some alms-houses tolerably well endowed. On the whole, Dartford is a respectable and thriving town, which seems to be progressively increasing in wealth and populousness.

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## W I L M I N G T O N.

A MORE charming spot than this upon which Wilmington is situated cannot easily be found. It is elevated, dry, healthy, and commands the most delightful and extensive prospects as well over the Thames as the adjacent country. The soil is gravel; the vicinity produces many scarce plants; there are several curious antiquities at no great distance; and upon the whole, those who wish a place of elegant retirement, convenience, and ingenuous amusement, may well be satisfied with the town or neighbourhood of Wilmington.

In ancient records the place is written Wilmintune and Wilmintuna; the manor occasionally is called both by the name of Wilmington and Grandisons, which latter appellation it takes from the family of Graunston or Grandison, which flourished in the reign of Henry the Third. We find that in Henry the Sixth's reign it was in the possession of the great earl of Warwick, who was killed at the famous and bloody battle of Barnet. It afterwards came into the possession of Sir Jeffery Pole, and in the time of the first James it belonged to Sir Christopher Heron. In 1766 it was conveyed to Nathaniel Webb, Esq. of Taunton, Somersetshire, and to him or his heirs it now belongs.

There are two other manors in this parish, namely, those of Rowe-hill and Stanhill, which also is called Wardendale. The first of these belongs to the above Nathaniel Webb, Esq., the latter to the dean and chapter of Rochester.



The church was formerly a chapel of ease to Sutton at Hone; it is now a distinct vicarage, in the diocese of Rochester, and in the gift of the dean and chapter. It is valued in the king's books at 6*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*

We again repeat that Wilmington is in all respects a most eligible situation, and not easily to be surpassed in local advantages by any place in this or the adjoining counties.

#### HUNDRED OF AXTANE.

THIS hundred is of considerably greater extent, and contains no less than fifteen parishes, which we shall enumerate and describe in their order:—1. Sutton at Hone; 2. Darent; 3. Stone; 4. Swancombe; 5. Southfleet; 6. Longfield; 7. Fawkham; 8. Hartley; 9. Ridley; 10. Ash; 11. Kingsdown, in part only; 12. Horton Kirkby; 13. Farningham; 14. Aynsford; 15. Lullingstone:—a part also of Cowden is in this hundred: the church of Cowden is not.

#### SUTTON AT HONE.

THIS parish was formerly far more considerable than it is at present, and indeed gave its name to the hundred. It is now of great extent, and comprehends various manors and ample premises. Its name in Latin is *Suthtuna*, or South Town; and the adjunct of At Hone has a reference to its low situation; *hone* meaning a valley.

Sutton at Hone, besides its own particular manor, which is divided into two moieties, called St. John's manor and Sutton manor, contains the manors of Hawley-house and Highlands, the hamlets of Hawley and Swanley, and the extensive premises named Sutton-place, Gildon-hill, and Hackstaple, or, as it is now called, Hextable.

The manor of Sutton at Hone anciently belonged to the Knights Hospitallers; in the time of queen Elizabeth it became the property of two co-heiresses. The one called St. John's manor, now belongs to William Hill, Esq. of Carwythinick, in Cornwall; the other, which retains the appellation of Sutton manor, with Sutton-place, a spacious and noble mansion, is the property of John Mumford, Esq.

Hawley was in remoter times called and written Hagelei, and was once the property of Odo, brother of William the Conqueror. Hawley-house is of great antiquity, and in the reign of the third Edward belonged to the venerable family of



Hastings; from them it has descended through various hands to the family and heirs of Mr. Sergeant Leigh, whom we have before had occasion to mention.

Highlands stands in the most elevated part of this parish, which, indeed, is intimated by its name, and is near Wilmington. It was purchased of John Tasker, Esq. in 1766, by John Calcraft, Esq. of Ingries, or Ingres; and to his heirs it now belongs.

Gildon-hill may be traced to have belonged to the priory of Dartford, in the reign of Henry the Eighth. In later times the lady dowager Folkestone has occupied and owned it. This estate is obliged to pay some small annual sum to the crown as an annual fee-farm rent.

Hextable is in the hamlet of Swanley. It was anciently written Exstapull, then Hackstaple, and now Hextable. It is a seat of great antiquity, and in Henry the Eighth's reign was possessed and occupied by Sir John Wiltshire. The present occupier is that eminent physician Dr. Pitcairn, who occasionally retires to this place from the fatigues of his useful but laborious profession.

The town of Sutton itself is charmingly situated. The river Darent agreeably flows through it, and from the church the country rises in easy gradations to Gildon-hill, or, as it is written, not improperly, in many of our maps, Gentle-hill.

The church is a spacious, and not inelegant edifice, dedicated to St. John the Baptist; it is in the diocese of Rochester, and in the gift of the dean and chapter. In the year 1615 it was accidentally burnt to the ground. Some thoughtless person fired at a bird sitting within the church, and it was supposed that the wadding of the gun lodged in the roof, and thus occasioned the conflagration.

## D A R E N T.

DERENTE, Deorwent, Tarent, Darent, for so has this place been variously denominated, is now known by the name only of Darne. It is a most agreeable village, whether we consider its situation, its neighbourhood, or the delightful scenery with which it is every where surrounded.

The manor of Darent anciently belonged to Christ-church, Canterbury; the present proprietors are the dean and chapter of Canterbury. There are several considerable and pleasant hamlets belonging to this parish, in particular those of St. Margaret Hills, South Darent, and Greenstreet-green.



St. Margaret Hills, properly speaking, is St. Margaret Helles. It was called Helles from one Thomas de Helles, to whom the lands belonged in the reign of the first Edward. It is a manor under the manor of Darent, and at present is the property of a family whose names are Lane.

South Darent has some fragments of antiquity about it, which seem to indicate greater importance than it now possesses. There are some ancient flint walls, which not improbably are the ruins of a church.

Greenstreet-green also has a mansion of some antiquity. The lands and house at the present period belong to a gentleman of the name of Waldo. An estate also, called Gore-house, with other premises of less importance, constitute part of this parish.

Near Greenstreet-green are many tumuli or barrows, which have often exercised the sagacity and diligence of our antiquarians: some have not hesitated to pronounce this the scene of a bloody battle betwixt Vortimer king of the Britons, and the Saxons.

The church is a mean and small structure, dedicated to St. Margaret. It is a vicarage, in the gift of the dean and chapter of Rochester. In Ecton's Thesaurus it is denominated Daruth alias Darenth.

## S T O N E.

THERE are other places of this name in the county of Kent, for which reason this village is always called Stone near Dartford. Its ancient name was Stane, but Stane in Saxon signifies stone, and the country about this town is remarkably stony, which explains the origin of its appellation.

The places most worthy of observation in the parish, are the manor and hamlet of Littlebrooke, Stone-castle, Stone-place, and Cotton, of which Cotton and Littlebrooke are manors. The manor of Stone constitutes part of the possessions of the bishop of Rochester. Littlebrooke, which in former times was written Litelbroc, has descended by marriage to a son of archbishop Potter. Stone-castle merits more particular observation. This is situated on an elevated spot at no great distance from the high road to Dover; the lands belonging to it are considerable, and the produce of them was bequeathed by Dr. Plume, the founder of the Plumian professorship at Cambridge, for the following purposes:—Twenty-six sermons were to be preached alternately at Gravesend and Dartford, on every Wednesday during



during the summer half year. After the expenses of these should be defrayed, the remainder of the produce of the estate was to be appropriated to the increase of such vicarages and livings in the diocese of Rochester as did not exceed 60*l.* per annum. We understand that the intention of the donor has been punctually fulfilled.

The manor of Cotton, in the reign of the first Edward, belonged to a family whose name was Cotton. It afterwards was the property of Sir John Wiltshire, whose possessions in this hundred have been mentioned before. In the reign of Elizabeth it came into the joint hands of lord Burleigh and Sir Thomas Walsingham. We find it afterwards in the possession, first of Sir Francis Lawley, afterwards of Sir William Keyt, and finally belonging to a lady resident at Canterbury, whose name is unknown to us.

The church of Stone has been exceedingly admired, and well deserves to be so. The architecture is Gothic, and a more perfect or more beautiful specimen of this style cannot easily be found. The roof of the chancel is very lofty, yet it has the appearance of being much less so than heretofore: some ancient stalls still remain on each side; these are remarkable for their curious workmanship, and for their supporters, which are delicate pillars of brown marble. The chapel is now a venerable pile of ruins; here formerly was the monument of the before-named Sir John Wiltshire and his wife. The Gothic windows, which are very large and perfectly regular, are in high preservation. All together, the curious antiquary would find a visit to the parish church of Stone well repay the trouble and labour it would cost him.

Stone is a rectory, in the diocese of Rochester, and patronage of the bishop. The church is dedicated to St. Mary. In the last century this beautiful edifice was so injured by lightning, that the bells were absolutely melted, and the roof and chancel almost destroyed.

We cannot leave this village without mentioning an anecdote recorded by that ancient historian Matthew Paris, which every reader will believe, or not, as he thinks proper. There was a child whose name was William Crule or Crul: at the age of two years he effectually cured every kind of malady incident to the human body, by placing his hand upon the diseased person, and making the sign of the cross on his forehead. This wonderful fact is said to have happened in the year 1252, and in the reign of the second Henry.



## S W A N S C O M B E.

SWANSCOMBE is the camp of Swane. The Saxon word *combe* or *compe*, is derived from the Latin *campus*, which is a field or camp. Swane, as appears from our history, was monarch of Denmark; and as Camden relates, having penetrated as far as Greenhithe, there landed his troops, and proceeding onwards, pitched his camp at Swanfcombe. Few etymologies are so clear and satisfactory.

In Domesday-book Swanfcombe is spelt Suinefcamp, and appears to have belonged to the brother of William the Conqueror. It reverted at different times, and on various occasions, to the crown; and in the reign of Edward the Third, was the property of Roger lord Mortimer. Elizabeth bestowed it on Anthony Weldon, Esq. who afterwards received the honour of knighthood. In 1763 we find it in the possession of Robert Child, Esq. the great banker, and to his heirs it now belongs.

The manor of Combes is in this parish, from which an ancient family heretofore took their name. John de Combe occupied this place in the reign of Edward the Third. It now belongs to the heirs of Sir Francis Head.

Greenhithe, which is a hamlet belonging to Swanfcombe, well deserves notice from its supplying the contiguous counties with immense quantities of chalk and lime. Here is always the appearance of great activity and traffic. The shore is covered with wharfs, and a numerous quantity of barges are continually employed in loading or landing various articles of commerce. The ferry which was anciently established here for the transporting of carriages, is now used only for horses.

Ingres, or Ingries, is also in this parish, and was once a manor belonging to Dartford priory. It latterly formed one of the many estates of John Calcraft, Esq. On his death the mansion was occupied by different individuals, but the property is, we believe, vested in Mr. Calcraft's heirs.

The story of William the Conqueror's being stopped in this place by the men of Kent, headed by the archbishop, and demanding with their arms in their hands, the confirmation of their rights, seems not to be believed by our most sagacious antiquaries.

The church is a rectory in the gift of the master and fellows of Sidney college, Cambridge. Its value in the king's books is 25*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* The high road to Dover crosses the village, which has a picturesque appearance from the water, on account of the woods which agreeably cover the brow of the adjoining hills.

SOUTH-



## S O U T H F L E E T.

SUTHFLETA, now called Southfleet, is a place of great antiquity. In the troublesome and dark times of the Saxon heptarchy, Birtrick was lord of the manor of Sudfleta. It afterwards came into the hands of the crown, and we find that Henry the Eighth gave it to Sir William Petre. He sold it to William Garret, Esq.; and it now belongs to the Sedley family, whose mansion is at Scadbury in this parish. Scadbury is a very ancient seat, but is now deserted by its former possessors.

The manor of Pole is in Southfleet parish, but has no particulars attached to it to justify our detaining the reader. There is also a seat or mansion of some antiquity called Hook-place, and a hamlet, the name of which is Betsam, or Bedesham.

A Roman milestone or milliare was found in this parish, which confirms the assertion of antiquarians, that a Roman road passed through Southfleet, and that Southfleet was not improbably a Roman station.

The church is an object which well deserves attention. It is dedicated to St. Nicholas, and has many curious marks of antiquity about it. The font in particular has been very much admired. Its form is octagon, and the workmanship is remarkably curious. There are also six ancient stalls or seats, intended doubtless for the monks. In the east window are some curious fragments of painted glass. On the pavement in the approach to the altar are some red and yellow tiles. There is also a musical peal of bells in this church, and it is altogether an elegant and interesting structure.

We must not leave Southfleet without making honourable mention of its free-school. This was founded in the year 1637 by Sir Charles Sedley, with a decent salary for the master. The heirs of this gentleman in succeeding times improved and increased the institution.

The church is a rectory, in the gift of the bishop of Rochester; and its value in the king's books is 31*l.* 15*s.*

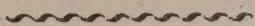
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 L O N G F I E L D.

LONGFIELD, in Domesday-book written Langafel, and in writings of remoter antiquity Langefeld, is the next parish to Southfleet. It is a mean inconsiderable



derable place, consisting only of a few poor and thinly scattered houses. The soil is hard and sterile, abounding in chalk with flint stones almost without number. The manor belongs to the archdeaconry of Rochester. The church is a poor and mean edifice, in the patronage of the bishop of Rochester; nor has it any thing more remarkable appertaining to it, than that the good and generous archdeacon Plume, whose munificent charities have before been recorded, is interred within its walls.



## F A W K H A M.

THE common people call this place Fakeham. It has at different periods been written Fachesham, Fealcanham, and Falcheham.

The manor is divided into the two distinct manors of Old and New Fawkham. The first descended from various proprietors to the dowager lady Folkstone; the second belongs to the heirs of William Selby, Esq. of Pennis, a considerable mansion in this parish.

A singular donation bequeathed in part to the poor of this parish deserves to be recorded. John Walter, Esq. of Pennis, left by his will to the two poorest men of the different parishes of Ash, Hartley, and Fawkham, “a large coat of good ruffet cloth;”—to two widows also of similar situation and description, “two good ruffet gowns.”—It was moreover enjoined those who were to receive the benefits of this bequest, to appear every Christmas-day at Pennis, at eight o’clock in the morning, and thence proceed to the church, where they were to hear a sermon, for preaching of which the clergyman was to receive ten shillings. After sermon the poor men and women were to return to Pennis, and partake of a comfortable dinner.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary; it is a rectory in the diocese of Rochester, to which the lords of the manors of Old and New Fawkham alternately present.



## H A R T L E Y.

THE name of this village has undergone a very singular alteration. In Domesday-book we find it written Ercelei, and in ancient records it has been thus expressed: “Herdei.”—This manor reverted to the crown after having been for a long time possessed by the brother of William the Conqueror. From the sovereign it will be



found to have passed through various hands, till it became vested in a family of the name of Gens.

The soil of this parish resembles that which we have described immediately before. It is full of flint stones, and is yet very chalky. The church is a mean and small erection, dedicated to all the Saints. It is of no great value, being discharged from the king's books. The village has nothing in or near it which merits any particular notice.

### R I D L E Y.

REDLEGE, Redleg, has finally become Ridley. This village also belonged to Odo, brother of the Conqueror. The manor now belongs to the heirs of William Glanville Evelyn, Esq. in whose patronage also the rectory remains. This village has still less to distinguish it than the former. There is no separate manor in the parish, no premises of which it is necessary to make any distinct mention, no antiquities to record, no appropriate acts of charity to praise. That here they lived and here they died, is all that is known of the rude forefathers of the hamlet of Ridley.

### A S H.

THIS village is in Domesday-book written Eisse; in more ancient records it is found Æisce near Farningham, and sometimes near Wrotham.

There are the manors of North Ash and South Ash. We find that the manor of North Ash having been forfeited to the crown, was granted by Henry the Eighth to Cromwell earl of Essex. It now belongs to the heirs of Thomas Lambard, Esq.

South Ash belonged to a family who either received or gave the name. John de Southeshe was the proprietor and occupier in the reign of Edward the Third. It has for a long series of years belonged to the family of Hodfell, a name which has at various times been written Huddyshole, Hudfoll, and Hodfoll.

Another manor in this parish is called Holywell. There was, so early as the reign of Edward the Second, a nunnery of Benedictines, called the nunnery of Holywell, situated somewhere in the city of London. It is hardly necessary to inform the reader that this appellation of Holywell is an alteration from *holy well*, from



from some spring or fountain of presumed sanctity or holiness. This manor also now belongs to the Lambard family.

The knights Templars had anciently some possessions in this parish, and there was a manor here named St. John's Ash. By the way, it may stimulate the researches of some of our indefatigable antiquaries, to inquire whence it happens that one or more villages of the name of Ash is to be found in almost every county of the kingdom. There is another village of the name of Ash in the county of Kent, situated in the neighbourhood of Sandwich.

The village we are now describing is somewhat romantic, being nearly surrounded with wood. The soil is hard, and very much covered with flint. The church originally was in the patronage of the knights of St. John of Jerusalem. It now belongs to the Lambard family. It is a rectory, and valued in the king's books at 9*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.*

#### K I N G S D O W N.

THIS place has been anciently thus variously written, Kingledune, Kingesdune, and finally Kingsdown. The manor anciently belonged to the noble family of Fitzbernard. The present possessor is that great and affluent commoner Thomas William Coke, Esq. of Holkham, in Norfolk.

The other manors in this parish are Hever, Chepsted, Maplescombe, and Woodland, which is also called Week.

The manor of Hever also belongs to Mr. Coke of Norfolk; and so also does a moiety of Chepsted—the other part of Chepsted manor is again subdivided among two or more proprietors.

Maplescombe has been at different times written Mapeldreskampe and Mapscumbe, which last is become its general name. In this place formerly was a separate church and a noble mansion: both have long been in ruins. The manor belongs to Mr. Coke above mentioned.

Woodland or Week, though in this parish, lies in another hundred; it formerly was a parish of itself, though it now belongs to Kingsdown. This last is a poor and inconsiderable place, though, with regard to its soil, it is better than the places contiguous to it.

The situation of the church is most singularly romantic. It stands in the deep bosom of a wood which covers a space of very little less than a hundred acres. It



is a rectory, the patronage of which is in the dean and chapter of Rochester. In the king's books it is entitled a joint rectory with Mapiscombe or Mapscombe, and is valued at 9*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*

### H O R T O N   K I R K B Y

IS really an interesting spot.—Here formerly was a castle, of which many large and venerable ruins remain. It is an agreeable, fertile, and truly retired place, and contains in its vicinity many places which have formerly been of great consideration, and now may well excite curiosity and attention.

The manor of Horton was given by the Conqueror to his brother Odo. One of his descendants built Horton-castle, which, from what may yet be seen of it, must once have been a strong and spacious building. The manor now belongs to Queen's college, Oxford, to whom it was given by John Michel, Esq. of Richmond in Surry.

Kirkby-court is also a manor in this parish. In queen Elizabeth's time it belonged to the celebrated Sir Thomas Walsingham; it now belongs to a widow lady, whose name has not reached us.

There is also in this parish a feat of no small importance, the common appellation of which is Franks, whether we consider the claims and possessions of the owner, or its local situation, and the pleasant point which it occupies on the banks of the river Darent. Another agreeable feat in this parish is called Reynolds-place, of no less magnitude or interest than the former, whether we speak of its antiquity or local advantages. There is also a hamlet belonging to Horton, which is called Pinden, anciently Pinnedene, and which was once of far greater importance than at present.

Horton is a vicarage; the church is dedicated to St. Mary; its patronage is in private hands. It appears from Eton's Thesaurus that the name of the patron who last presented was Mr. Thomas Williams.

### F A R N I N G H A M.

THIS place, anciently written Ferlingeham, Ferningeham, and Freningham, is one of the most delightful villages in Kent. The scenes every where around it partake of all the beauties of a perfect landscape. There is indeed every variety  
which



which the lover of rustic scenery would require, and the situation is as salubrious as it is agreeable.

Farningham, besides its own particular manor, properly so denominated, contains the separate manors of Chartons and Chimbhams, or, as the common people pronounce it, Chimmans. There is also belonging to this parish, what was once a considerable mansion, known by the name of Petham-place.

The manor of Farningham, after being an escheat to the crown by the disgrace and punishment of Odo, has passed through the hands of various proprietors, till it now belongs to a gentleman of the name of Fuller. Chartons anciently belonged to the archbishops of Canterbury; the present proprietor is John Tasker, Esq. of Franks. Chimmans, or more properly Chimbhams, in the reign of Henry the Third, belonged to John de Chimbeham; at the Restoration it became the property of Sir James Bunce, an alderman of London, and it is now enjoyed by one of his descendants. Petham-place was one of the many purchases made in this part of the county of Kent by John Calcraft, Esq. of Ingreffs.

There is, as may be supposed from its local situation, a constant traffic through Farningham. The road from London to Maidstone passes directly through it, and the passage is facilitated by a neat and commodious bridge, which is here thrown over the Darent—the bridge is of brick, and consists of four arches. There has also been a mill established in this place from the time of king Stephen, who appears to have given the mill of Frenynham alias Farningham, to a society of monks established at Bermondsey, in Surry.

The church of Farningham alone remains to be spoken of, and this also is entitled to our commendation. It is consecrated to St. Peter and St. Paul; a vicarage, the patronage of which is with the archbishop of Canterbury. There is a very curious font in this church, the antiquity of which must obviously be very remote. It is of an octagonal form, and in each division there are a number of allegorical figures, executed with no mean skill. Some foolish and modern hand, not improbably with the idea of improving it, has so disfigured the ancient devices, that it is almost impossible to comprehend the design of the original artist. The peal of bells in Farningham church is said to be unusually good.



## E Y N S F O R D.

THIS place is in all the maps erroneously written Aynsford. The etymology of the names of places terminating in the word *ford*, can hardly to the commonest reader require explanation. At this place, in remoter times, was a ford over the river Darent. Here also was one of our ancient castles, which, with the manor, was held of the archbishops of Canterbury. It is now in the possession of Sir John Dixon Dyke.

There are three other manors in this parish, namely, Orkesden, Little Mote, and Pelham-court. Orkesden gave a name to an ancient family, and William de Orkesden was a personage of some note in the reign of John. This manor also belongs to the respectable baronet, proprietor of the manor of Eynsford. The manors of Little Mote and Pelham-court, are the property severally of lord Romney and the Bosvilles of Staffordshire. There is nothing to record of this place, no local customs, antiquities, or peculiarities.

The church is mean and small. There were some curious and ancient monuments, and monumental inscriptions; these, however, partly by time, and partly by unfeeling, and we had almost said unpardonable negligence, are defaced and ruined. The rector of Eynsford presents to the vicarage; and the gentleman who at present possesses this privilege is a layman, and the above mentioned Sir John Dixon Dyke.

There is a hamlet belonging to this parish, not to be omitted in point of accuracy, though of no great importance in itself; and this is Crokerhill. The lands of this, formerly annexed to the priory of Dartford, and afterwards belonging to Percival Hart, who was honoured by the smiles and presence of queen Elizabeth, belong, with almost the whole of the parish, to the proprietor of the manor of Eynsford.

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 L U L L I N G S T O N E.

LULLINGSTONE, anciently written Lolingestone, and occasionally also Lullingestone, is the last village to be described in the hundred of Axstane.

The history of the manor of Lullingstone, if pursued and explained in detail, would involve many curious and important particulars; but we can only select such of these as seem more immediately pertinent. This is one of the numerous posses-



sions given by William the Conqueror to his brother. To William it again reverted. In the reign of Richard the Second it appears to have belonged to Sir John Peche. There was a gentleman of this name in possession of this estate and manor in the time of Henry the Seventh, who was of high character for loyalty and valour. He was particularly instrumental in opposing and thwarting the attempts of the celebrated Perkin Warbeck, and indeed was the cause of his final overthrow on Blackheath.

The manor afterwards came into the hands of Sir Percival Hart, and now belongs to Sir John Dixon Dyke. This place is called a village, but in fact it consists only of two or three houses. The church, however, merits particular mention.

The munificence, united with the elegant taste of the patron, has made this church a most interesting spectacle. The monuments, the style of the seats, but above all, the painted windows, exhibit all together a picture which cannot easily be exceeded in elegance or beauty. The subjects delineated very curiously in the windows, are partly scriptural, and partly heraldical distinctions of the present family and their remoter ancestors.

The church is in the diocese of Rochester. It is a rectory in the gift of Sir John Dyke, and its certified value in Ecton's Thesaurus is 39*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.*

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#### HUNDRED OF CODSHEATH.

**T**HE next hundred, of Codsheath or Codesede, contains nine different parishes, namely—Shoreham, Halsted, Otford, Kemfing, Seale, Sevenoke, Chevening, that is to say part of Chevening, Sundrish, and what is called Woodland in Kingfdown. In this hundred also is part of the parishes of Speldhurst and Lyghe. The first of these to be mentioned is

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#### S H O R E H A M.

**T**HIS place is also in ancient records denominated Schorham. The manor belongs to the crown, and is part of what is termed the manor of Otford. At Shoreham was formerly a castle, to which a distinct manor was annexed. This castle must necessarily have been of great antiquity, for one of our most correct writers  
on



on subjects of local history observes, that of Shoreham-castle only the ruins could be discerned in the reign of Henry the Eighth.

The places most worthy of notice in the parish of Shoreham, are Preston and New-house. The former anciently constituted part of the domains of the archbishops of Canterbury; latterly it belonged, as it does at present, to the family of Borrett, which occupies a very elegant and spacious mansion, to which the name of New-house has been given. There is only one separate manor in the parish of Shoreham, known by the name of Filston, or Vielston. This also belongs to the Borretts of New-house.

There are also two premises, with considerable estates annexed, in Shoreham, and which are called Sepham and Planers. These belong to Mr. Polhill of Chipstead, in the same county.

Shoreham is a mean village, and has nothing more remarkable belonging to it than a handsome bridge thrown over the Darent, which has two not inelegant arches. The church also has some claims to commendation. It is a neat, simple structure; a vicarage, in the diocese of Rochester, and in the gift of the dean and chapter of Westminster. It is what is called a peculiar of the archbishop; the meaning of which term is, that having anciently been part of the peculiar possessions of the archbishop, they are not amenable to the jurisdiction of the bishop in whose particular diocese they lie.

#### H A L S T E D.

HALSTED is an obscure and poor village; yet, on the approach to it, it presents an interesting and picturesque appearance. It is lofty, being on a gentle eminence; and the hill, or rather hills, on which it is situated, are of chalk. The manor probably belonged to the see of Canterbury, at least the person whom our ancient records first mention as its occupier, held it of the archbishop. It passed in 1738 to the third son of the duke of St. Alban's, who by his late majesty George the Second was created a peer.

This church is also a peculiar of the archbishop, who has also the patronage of the rectory. It is much to be lamented that the very curious specimens of painted glass with which the church was once ornamented, are now almost wholly destroyed.

Halsted



Halsted-place is an elegant mansion in this parish, which formerly belonged to the above-mentioned lord Vere; it is now the property of John Sargent, Esq.

O T F O R D.

AT this place we shall be delayed somewhat longer. Here formerly was an archiepiscopal palace, and it is also of some note in the annals of our country.

The name of the village has at different times been written Ottanford, Otefort, Otteford, and Otford. The manor anciently belonged to the see of Canterbury, but Henry the Eighth obtained it of archbishop Cranmer, in exchange for some other estates. It now remains with the crown, which grants at pleasure what is termed the high stewardship of the honour of Otford, to some distinguished individual of the county. The present high steward is the duke of Dorset.

The palace, of which at present there are but inconsiderable remains, was formerly very splendid and magnificent. The archbishops here, from time to time, kept their court, and exercised becoming hospitality. It is related of archbishop Warham, that he expended in repairing and ornamenting this place a sum very little short of 40,000*l*. There is a spring in the vicinity of the ruins, and which formerly used to supply the palace, which is called St. Thomas's spring. Of this the following miraculous story is related—Thomas à Becket resided at this palace. His domestics complained of a scarcity of water, upon which the holy man walked forth with his staff, and at a convenient spot struck the earth with it; upon which a stream of limpid water burst forth, and has never since ceased to flow.

The history of the manors and other premises in this parish is involved in some obscurity, of no great importance to our purpose to develope. There is a manor called Sergeant's Otford with the Little Park; there is another manor called Dane-hull, and familiarly Denhall. There is also a considerable estate belonging to Sir Richard Betenson, known by the appellation of Rye-house; there is another called Broughtons.

Two very bloody battles took place in or near Otford; one between the Saxons in some civil contention, the other between the Saxons and the Danes. The vestiges of these encounters from time to time appear—skeletons have often been found, heads of spears and fragments of military weapons. Of these the parti-



culars may be seen at length in Camden, and many curious incidents are related in Lambard's Perambulation of this county.

The church or rather chapel of Otford is an adjunct to Shoreham. It was heretofore of much greater repute. The saint to whom it was dedicated was said to have the gift of removing barrenness; and a fair was annually held at this place, in commemoration of his miracles and beneficial qualities.

The ruins of the palace excite on the view a melancholy emotion; for what contemplative mind can view magnificence exchanged for sordid obscurity, luxury for poverty, learning for ignorance, without regretting the imbecility of nature, and the vicissitudes of fortune?

“ Vain end of human strength, of human skill,  
 “ Conquest, and triumph, and domain, and pomp,  
 “ And ease, and luxury.”——

“ Aspice murorum moles præruptaque saxa  
 “ Obrutaque horrenti vasta theatra situ.”

### K E M S I N G.

THE variation which the name of this village has undergone is not a little singular. We find it written Cemecinga, Camefing, and finally Kemfing. The manor in the reign of the second Henry belonged to the earl of Albemarle. Fynes, a gallant soldier, and much beloved by Henry the Fifth, with whom he served in France, possessed this manor in that reign. In the reign of the succeeding monarch this gentleman came to an untimely end. Henry the Eighth seized the manor of Kemfing on pretence of its belonging by descent to his queen, Ann Boleyn, and afterwards gave it to Ann of Cleves.

Queen Elizabeth granted this and other estates to Sir Henry Carey, who was afterwards lord Hunsdon, and of whom the following singular anecdote is related: He had often solicited his royal mistress, who was also his cousin, to make him earl of Wiltshire, thinking that he had a fair claim to this honour in right of his mother Mary, sister to queen Ann Boleyn. Elizabeth was unwilling to comply with his request, which so exceedingly preyed upon the young man's mind, that it caused a fit of sickness which terminated in his death. When he was dying, Elizabeth paid him a visit, and childishly enough ordered the patent for creating him earl



earl of Wiltshire, to be placed upon his bed, together with his earl's robes, &c. The kindness, however, was too late to be efficacious, and the dying nobleman told the queen with great firmness, that as she did not esteem him deserving this honourable distinction when in the vigour of health and strength, he did not on his dying bed think it expedient to accept them.

The present possessor of this manor, under certain limitations, is his grace the duke of Dorset.

Mention ought to be made of a very ancient estate in the parish of Kemfing, known by the name of Crowdleham. This has been the property of a respectable family of the name of Bunce ever since the reign of Henry the Eighth. A gentleman of the name of Bunce now occupies and resides at Crowdleham.

Kempfing was formerly of much greater note than it is at present. Here was formerly a market held weekly on a Monday. A fair is still annually kept here on Easter Monday. A tutelar saint also, whose supposed virtues were very extraordinary and miraculous, brought a great concourse of people perpetually to the town, and more particularly to the church of Kempfing—this was St. Edith; her image was placed on a pedestal in the church-yard, and among other benefits which she imparted to her votaries, her power, on proper application, dissipated the pestilence of mildew, and the blights from the corn. St. Edith moreover was a native of the place, and, to mark her affection for her native soil, produced a well called St. Edith's well, which appellation it is said still to retain.

The church is a vicarage, annexed to the adjoining parish church of Seale, and the patronage is with the duke of Dorset.

## S E A L E.

SEALE, the next parish to the south of Kempfing, is a mean, dreary, and cheerless place. The eye is fatigued with wandering over hundreds of hundreds of acres of uncultivated heath, without any thing to rest upon but a few woods interspersed; and these are of low, ragged, and miserable appearance.

This village was formerly denominated De la Sele, and sometimes La Sele; now as *sele* is a Saxon word for a mansion of some splendour, a palace, &c. it is not improbable to suppose that here was formerly in remoter times some such edifice.

The manor of Seale now belongs to the duke of Dorset, under the same, or simi-



lar limitations, as the contiguous manor of Kemfing. It is probable that this place gave the additional title to the noble family, the head of which is lord Say and Seale. There are two other manors in this parish, one called Hall, the other Stidulfe's-place, which latter has also the name of the Wilderneys.

Hall-place belongs to a gentleman of the name of Thompson; Stidulfe's-place is the property of a family whose name is Pratt, and which originally came from Devonshire. It was the Bickerstaffe family which owned this place in the reign of Charles the First, one of whom changed the name from Stidulfe's-place to the Wilderneys, which it has ever since preserved.

Nulcombe and Stonepit are also two considerable estates belonging to the parish of Seale. We before observed that this parish is annexed to the vicarage of Kemfing, but there are no local circumstances to justify any farther detail in this place.

## S E V E N O K E.

THERE is no portion of Kent more interesting than this which we are about to describe, whether we consider the diversity of the soil, the picturesque appearance of the country, the number of noble mansions with which it is adorned, and above all, the magnificent palace and beautiful domains of his grace the duke of Dorset.

Sevenoke, or, as it is familiarly called, Sennoke, is contiguous to Seale to the south. Its appellation hardly requires to be explained. Its ancient name was Seoven acca. The town is built upon a hill, upon which, in more remote times, and not improbably when the place was first built upon, seven large oak trees were standing.

The manor of Sevenoke formerly belonged to the see of Canterbury. Henry the Eighth obtained possession of it in exchange for other lands, of archbishop Cranmer. Knole also belonged to the same see of Canterbury; for it appears that in the reign of Henry the Sixth, archbishop Bouchier bought it of lord Say and Seale. This same prelate made a splendid addition to the house, and considerably improved and adorned the adjoining domains. After him different archbishops of Canterbury made this the place of their residence, and in particular that wise and learned character lord chancellor Warham. When the manors of Sevenoke and Knole came into the hands of the sovereign, they were exchanged by Edward the Sixth, with the favourite of himself and predecessor, Dudley earl of Warwick, who was afterwards created duke of Northumberland.



In the reign of queen Mary these premises and this noble mansion became the property of the celebrated Reginald Pole, cardinal of Rome, and archbishop of Canterbury ; a man who was one of the very few upon whom the kindness of that princess was not improperly bestowed. On the cardinal's death they again reverted to the crown, and we find that Elizabeth conferred them upon the lord Hunfdon, of whom we have made mention in a preceding part of this work. A descendant of this lord Hunfdon conveyed them by sale to the progenitors of the present noble owner, an event which, if we are not misinformed, took place in the reign of the first James. A genealogical detail of the family of Sackville would be foreign from our purpose ; it is sufficient to say that it may easily be traced back to William the Conqueror's arrival in this kingdom. Herbrand de Saccavilla accompanied that monarch, and partook of his glory.

The mansion of Knole is in itself so interesting an object, and a description of it so indispensable in a work professing to describe all that is curious within a certain distance of the metropolis, that we should be somewhat perplexed to render justice to the place, and at the same time satisfaction to our readers, did not the following accurate and perspicuous representation present itself. It is taken from a book upon which the public has bestowed its approbation, entitled, *Biographical Sketches of eminent Persons whose Portraits form Part of the Duke of Dorset's most valuable and curious Collection of Paintings at Knole* ; written by Henry Norton Willis, Esq. whose name, however, is not prefixed to the work.

“ The architecture of this immense pile bespeaks a variety of dates ; the most  
 “ ancient is probably coeval with the Marechals and Bigods : it seems as if the  
 “ whole of it was antecedent to its becoming the possession of the Sackvilles, though  
 “ certainly many of this family have very considerably repaired it, particularly  
 “ Richard, the fifth earl. No part appears of a more modern date than the reign  
 “ of Elizabeth. Thomas, the first earl of Dorset, came to reside at Knole in 1603,  
 “ he died in 1607 ; and as the water-spouts, which were put up by him throughout  
 “ the house, are dated 1605, it would appear that no part of the building is subse-  
 “ quent to this period. The garden gates, the sun-dial, and many other places,  
 “ bear the arms of Sackville and Middlefex, a title brought into the family by  
 “ Frances Cranfield, heiress of the earl of Middlefex, and countess to the above-  
 “ mentioned Richard. In a window in the billiard-room is the portrait of a man

“ in



“ in armour with this inscription: *Herbrandus de Sackville præpotens Normannus*  
 “ *intravit Angliam cum Gulielmo Conquestore, anno 1066*; and in a room called  
 “ the Carton gallery, are painted on glass twenty-one armorial bearings, from the  
 “ above Herbrandus to Richard the third earl of Dorset: a lineage which, as far as  
 “ the boast of pedigree may be allowed a fair pretension, can be surpassed or even  
 “ equalled by few in the kingdom. In another room are several shields of the  
 “ arms of the Cranmer family; this room has the appearance of having once been  
 “ the archbishop’s private chapel; the window resembles more those of the places  
 “ of religious worship than any other window in the house; and the approach to  
 “ it is by two or three steps exhibiting all together the appearance of what was once  
 “ an altar.

“ The park owes much to nature, and much to its noble proprietor; the line  
 “ of its surface is perpetually varying, so that new points of view are constantly  
 “ presenting themselves. The soil is happily adapted to the growth of timber;  
 “ stately beeches and venerable oaks fill every part of the landscape; the girth of  
 “ one of these oaks exceeds twenty-eight feet, and probably its branches afforded  
 “ shade to its ancient lords of Pembroke and Norfolk. The present duke has, with  
 “ much assiduity and taste, repaired the gaps made in the woods by one of his  
 “ ancestors, who, ‘Foe to the Dryads of his father’s groves,’ had unveiled their  
 “ haunts and exposed their secret recesses to the rude and garish eye of day. The  
 “ plantations are not dotted about in cloddish clumps, as if they had no reference  
 “ to a whole or general effect, but in broad and spacious masses cover the summits  
 “ of the undulating line, or skirt the vallies in easy sweeps. Not to dwell, how-  
 “ ever, on ‘barren generalities,’ among many others there are two points of view  
 “ which particularly deserve the visitor’s attention; the one is from the end of a  
 “ valley which goes in a south-west direction from the house; it forms a gentle  
 “ curve, the groves rise magnificently on each side, and the trees, many of them  
 “ beeches of the largest size, are generally feathered to the bottom; the mansion  
 “ with its towers and battlements, and a back ground of hills covered with wood,  
 “ terminate the vista; the time most favourable for the prospect is a little before  
 “ the setting sun, when the fore ground is darkened by a great mass of shade, and  
 “ the house, from this circumstance and its being brightened by the sun’s rays,  
 “ is brought forward in a beautiful manner to the eye. The other view is from a  
 “ rising ground of the same valley, and of a different kind from the former; on  
 “ gaining



“ gaining the summit of the hill, a prospect of vast extent bursts at once upon the  
 “ eye; woods, heaths, towns, villages, and hamlets, are all before you in bright  
 “ confusion; the sudden and abrupt manner in which the prospect presents itself,  
 “ being in perfect unison with the wildness of the scenery. The eye takes in the  
 “ greater part of West Kent, a considerable part of Sussex, and a distant view of  
 “ the hills of Hampshire. The fore ground is woody, the whitened steeples rising  
 “ every where among the trees, with gentlemen’s seats scattered round in great  
 “ abundance. Penshurst, the ancient residence of the Sidneys, stands conspicu-  
 “ ously on a gentle swell, forming a middle point between the fore ground and the  
 “ South Downs that skirt the horizon. It is a venerable mansion surrounded with  
 “ groves of high antiquity: I know not if the oak, planted the day Sir Philip  
 “ Sidney was born, and mentioned by Ben Johnson, be yet remaining; if it be, I  
 “ trust it meets from the present proprietor with every respect due to so sacred a  
 “ relique. The patriot Algernon, and the poet Waller, have both reposed beneath  
 “ its shade, and possibly here too Sir Philip sketched his Arcadian scenes.”

In the parish of Sevenoke, but at some distance from the town, is the manor of Braborne. After various changes of proprietors this place came into the hands of Henry the Eighth, but in the reign of queen Elizabeth it appears to have been possessed by Sir Ralph Bosville. The family of Bosville continued to enjoy the estate, and occupy the mansion till the year 1761, when it came into the possession of Richard Betenson, Esq. son of Sir Richard Betenson. The heirs of this gentleman not only enjoy the manor of Braborne, but the lands and estate of what is called Blackhall. A very ancient monumental inscription in the church of Sevenoke proves that the estate of Blackhall once belonged to one Robert Totihurst, who in the year 1512 was a kind of dependant on cardinal Bouchier, who for a considerable time enjoyed the see of Canterbury.

We ought not to omit mention in this place, of an estate in the parish of Sevenoke, named Kepington, which, after passing through the hands of various possessors, became the property of the justly celebrated Mr. Thomas Farnaby. This learned man was in his greatest reputation about the year 1638. He is said to have educated almost a thousand of the principal gentlemen of his time, and to have produced more eminent and accomplished scholars than any other person before or since, the famous Busby alone excepted. We should be glad to adorn our pages with many anecdotes of this distinguished personage, but that the doing this  
 would



would too far 'intrude upon our prescribed limits. He exhibited one of the very rare examples of a schoolmaster's acquiring an ample fortune. Mr. Farnaby, however, did this; he purchased large landed property in this and the neighbouring parishes; and his descendants, since raised to the honour of baronets, enjoy this and several other ample possessions.

Neither in speaking of Sevenoke must we pass over Rumpsted, or, as it seems anciently to have been called, Rumpshot. Mention is somewhere made of a Sir William de Rumpsted, about whom there is a very interesting traditionary tale, which might have been made consistently enough the burden of an ancient ballad.—William de Sevenoke was deserted by his nurse or guardian, and left to perish by the water, or at the foot of a tree—Sir William de Rumpsted found, preserved, and educated him. This estate of Rumpsted has descended to the Lambard family.

There are other estates also in the parish of Sevenoke with distinct appellations, and belonging to different owners; such, for example, as Wickhurst, Pett-house, Stidulfe, Hoath, Brytaines, Stothe, &c.; but these have no antiquities or peculiarities involved in their history, of sufficient importance to justify our detaining our readers.

The town of Sevenoke itself it is impossible not to praise. Its situation is delightful, and not more pleasant to the eye of a curious observer, than it is both convenient and salubrious. There are a number of elegant and spacious mansions which enliven and vary the spectacle. The town also seems progressively increasing in population, and consequent wealth and importance.

Sevenoke, in the reign of Elizabeth, and, if we are not mistaken, since, was the assize town. There is now an excellent market every Saturday, and two fairs, the one in summer, the other in autumn. The market-place is of some antiquity, which indeed is obvious from its present appearance. The town has two large and commodious streets. At the termination of one of these is a large open space, known by the appellation of the Vine. On this the players at cricket, at which game the men of Kent, and of Sevenoke in particular, are proverbially expert, frequently exhibit their activity and skill.

Brook's-place is a mansion at the distance of about a mile from Sevenoke, situated in the hamlet called Riverhead, a district of the parish, which deserves mention, were it only from respect to the memory of the late gallant lord Amherst. This was a place of great antiquity; but coming into the hands of lord Amherst, he pulled



pulled it entirely down, and erected on a contiguous spot a neat structure of stone, to which his lordship gave the name of Montreal, to commemorate the capture of that place by the British arms.

An elegant obelisk in these domains specifies in detail the many important victories obtained by his majesty's forces in North America, and principally under the conduct of lord Amherst. In another district of this parish, named Sevenoke Weald, is Whitley Forest, which had at no earlier period than the reign of Elizabeth, contained wild boars, an animal long exterminated in these kingdoms, with an exception of a few in one of the royal forests.

Sevenoke possesses, among its various other distinctions, an excellent hospital for the maintenance of twenty poor people, and a free-school for the benefit of the youth of this place. The hospital was founded by Sir William Rumpsted, who was mentioned above, and who in progress of time became lord mayor of London. The narrative of this gentleman's life bears no small resemblance to the late famous Whittington. The same benevolence also firmly established the grammar-school; but this in succeeding times was considerably extended and improved by Sir Ralph Bosville, who flourished in the time of Elizabeth, and called this seminary after the name of that venerated princess.

A daughter of this Sir Ralph Bosville gave two scholarships to Jesus college, Cambridge, for the benefit of two youths, who were to be elected from this grammar-school of Sevenoke. The school itself has been so improved, that there are no less than six exhibitions for young men educated there, who may belong to any college of either university.

The church is a large and spacious edifice. The tower is of a square form; and such is its elevation, that it forms a picturesque and interesting object at various points of the surrounding country. The rectory is a sinecure. The vicarage requires separate institution and ordination. The patronage of both is, according to Ecton's Thesaurus, with David Papillon, Esq. and his wife. Mr. Haisted, in his History of Kent, contradicts this, and says that "Dr. Thomas Curteis, rector and "vicar of this parish, died in 1775, seized of this patronage."

Sevenoke is a place of such consideration, and, as old Philpott observes, is a fountain which streams into so many branches, that it is not impossible but we may have omitted some few particulars which readers of some description might expect to find. We believe however that every thing more material has been noticed in



its appropriate place, and we consequently dismiss this portion of our work with the honest confidence of having exerted a becoming share of diligence and attention.



### C H E V E N I N G.

THIS parish, which lies next to the parish of Sevenoke, is not wholly in the hundred which we are now describing. A portion of it, though not a large one, is in the hundred of Somerden. There appear anciently to have been two manors of the name of Chevening, the Greater and the Less. Of these the first has descended to Sir James Dashwood, the latter belongs to the Right Hon. earl Stanhope.

Another manor in this parish bears the appellation of Chepsted alias Wilkes. Mention is made in old records of a John de Chepsted, who possessed this place; but in later times it was occupied by a family of the name of Wilkes, since which it has been indifferently denominated Chepsted alias Wilkes. This also is now the property of the above-mentioned earl Stanhope.

A gentleman of the name of Polhill possesses and occupies a very old mansion called Chepsted-house, which in the reign of queen Elizabeth belonged to Robert Cranmer. A separate manor, also known by the name of Madam's-court, must not be passed over without mention. The correct and proper name of these domains is Morant's-court. The first possessor of this estate, of whom there is notice taken in ancient records, is Thomas de Moraunt, who doubtless, as was the custom of these times, was so named from the place which he inhabited. It is now the property of a family whose name is Price.

Charles Polhill, Esq. the owner of Chepsted-house, is also proprietor of a manor, which is likewise in the parish of Chevening, and called Donington, familiarly by the neighbourhood Dunton.

There is nothing in the village itself, in the church, or indeed in the neighbourhood, either to require or justify specific detail. The church is a rectory, to which the archbishop of Canterbury presents. Its value in the king's books, as appears from Ecton's Thesaurus, is 21*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*; but there exists an obligation to pay from the profits of the living a small annual sum to the rector of Shoreham.

We may, perhaps, be excused by some readers for adding, that the house inhabited by lord Stanhope was originally built from a design of Inigo Jones, and that



the church of Chevening contains elegant monuments of the Lennard family, which by the marriage of the sister and heir of Gregory Fynes, lord Dacre of the South, became entitled to that barony in the reign of James I. Thomas, a descendant of this marriage, was created earl of Suffex, who leaving no male issue, that title became extinct, but the barony became vested in Ann, his last surviving daughter; she married Richard Barrett Lennard, Esq., Henry Roper, lord Teynham, and lastly, Robert Moore, a younger son of Henry earl of Drogheda: by the first marriage she had the elegant and judicious Thomas Lennard Barrett, who became in her right lord Dacre, but having had no issue, and dying in 1786, the title came to Trevor Charles Roper, Esq. grandson of lady Dacre, who dying without issue in 1794, the title came to the present lady Dacre, Gertrude widow of the late Thomas Brand, of the Hoo in Hertfordshire, Esq.

#### S U N D R I S H.

THIS place, commonly called Sundridge, should properly be named as we have written it; at least Sundrish is the orthography according to various deeds and records of respectable authority. The manor of Sundrish is now the property of a family of the name of Hyde, resident in some other province. Anciently it was part of the possessions of the archbishops of Canterbury.

Oveney's-green, sometimes called Overney, is a distinct manor in the parish of Sundrish, and now the property of earl Stanhope. Brook-place is an estate of some consideration, and also in this parish. It belongs to a gentleman of the name of Ward—this is not a manor. Henden is, which also is sometimes written Hethenden. This place formerly belonged to the family of Le Despencer, the principal individuals of which were so obnoxious to the people, and such favourites with the sovereign in the reign of the second Edward; the father and the son in that calamitous reign were both sacrificed to the fury of the people by means the most barbarous as well as ignominious.

Henden afterwards came into the possession of the famous earl of Warwick, who was vulgarly, though not improperly, denominated the King-maker; but in the reign of Henry the Eighth it appears to have belonged to the crown. It is at present possessed by the heirs of Sir William Hoskins.

There is a mansion of considerable antiquity in this parish named Combe-bank. We have before had occasion to intimate that *comb* is a Saxon word, the meaning of



which is field or camp: nor is it at all improbable that formerly there was in this place or neighbourhood some military station or camp: urns and other fragments of antiquity have at different periods been dug up here, and some of our most sagacious antiquaries have not scrupled to assert, that this was once a regular place of interment for Roman foldiers.

Combe-place has for a long time belonged to the Argyle family, and, if we are not mistaken in our information, it is at the present period occupied by lord Frederick Campbell, member for Argyleshire.

His lordship the bishop of London, of whose good and amiable qualities we are happy in every opportunity of making honourable mention, has a neat cottage in this village. The bishop once enjoyed this benefice from the gift of archbishop Secker, and his attachment to the place was so strong that he has retained a mansion here as a place of retirement from the bustle, noise, and occupations of the metropolis.

The village of Sundrish itself is convenient, agreeable, and salubrious; the stream of the Darent flows through it in a double channel, and it is crossed by the high road to Maidstone.

It may not be impertinent to observe, that this obscure village gives an English title to the duke of Argyle, who is also baron Sundridge of Combe-bank. Sundrish is a rectory, of which the archbishop of Canterbury is patron, and its value in the king's books is 22*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

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## B R A S T E D.

THERE is some difficulty in the description of this parish—one part of it is within the hundred of Westerham and Eatonbridge; it has also the very uncommon peculiarity of a distinct and appropriate district. This is called the Ville of Brasted, which is unconnected with, and totally independent of any hundred.

We are somewhat particular in remarking the variations at different periods in the orthography of the places we describe, because we deem it both curious and important to mark the progress of language from barbarism to refinement. We make no apology, therefore, for observing, that what is now written Brasted, has undergone the different changes of Bradestede, Briestede, and Brasted. There is little doubt but the name was originally applied from the construction and form of the village.



lage. It consists of one long street: now in Saxon *stede* is synonymous with *brede*, and means any thing of length.

Long antecedent to the conquest of this island by William the First, the manor of Brasted can be traced to have belonged to the archbishops of Canterbury in right of their fee. It is unimportant to follow it in its progress through the hands of a multitude of proprietors; it now belongs to earl Stanhope.

There is an estate in Brasted known by the name of Brasted-place, and which anciently was called by the different names of Crow-place and Stocket-place. Two families doubtless of these names, at some time or other, possessed or occupied this estate. Brasted-place at present belongs to lord Willoughby de Broke.

An estate and considerable domain annexed called Delaware, and also in this parish of Brasted, merits notice, on account of its great antiquity. There was a mansion in this place, and occupied by a gentleman of the respectable name of Delaware, in the reign of the second Henry; at the present period the property of Mr. Streatfeild.

The village of Brasted has in itself nothing which merits particular attention; yet there is something picturesque in its general aspect. The two rivers of Eden and Darent severally cross the place.

The church is a rectory, in the patronage of the archbishop of Canterbury; its value in the king's books is 22*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

#### HUNDRED OF WESTERHAM AND EATONBRIDGE.

THE hundred thus divided consists of no more than the two parishes, each being a hundred within itself.

Westerham is the next parish to the west of Brasted. Its name explains itself—ham is a village, and Westerham is the western village. The inhabitants and neighbourhood familiarly denominated this place Westram.

Some of our readers may probably be pleased with our occasional notice of the variations in the orthography of places, and for our own parts we cannot think any observations unimportant which tend to extend and improve the knowledge of our language. We make no apology, therefore, for remarking, that in *Domesday-book* what is now written Westerham and Westram was Oistreham.

The manor of Westerham was held of Edward the Confessor by the famous earl Godwin.



Godwin. It was granted by Henry the Eighth to Sir John Gresham, lord mayor of London; from him, in various lines, it has finally settled with the family of Warde.

The other manors in this parish are those of Squeries and Broxham. Squeries, which is of considerable antiquity, belongs to the same family of Warde: Broxham is the property of the Petleys of Riverhead. Gasum alias Well-street, and Valens alias Hill-park, are two estates of some consideration in the parish of Westram, the latter in particular. Hill-park is its modern appellation. It was called Valens till sold by an Irish gentleman of the name of M'Guire, who acquired great property in the East Indies, to the earl of Hillsborough, who after considerably ornamenting the place, gave it the name of Hill-park.

Westram had the honour of giving birth to two very distinguished characters in the British annals, though in far different lines. The one was Hoadly bishop of Winchester; the other the gallant general Wolfe, who died so nobly at Quebec. With respect to the virtues and talents of the first of these characters there are varieties of opinions. Some dispute his integrity, and call him a republican prelate—Pope censures his abilities as a writer—

———Swift for closer style,  
But Hoadly for a period of a mile.

Dr. Lowth calls him—"The great advocate of civil and religious liberty."

With respect to general Wolfe there is no difference of opinion; all agree in the justice of the following inscription to his memory, which not being generally known we are happy to transcribe:

"GENERAL JAMES WOLFE,  
Who,  
Dauntless but deliberate,  
Under numerous difficulties,  
September 2, 1759,  
Engaged to employ his little army  
For the honour and interest  
Of his country,  
And  
In a few days after  
Gloriously fulfilled his promise  
In the conquest of  
QUEBEC,  
At the expense of his LIFE."



The following incident, which, according to evidence the most authentic that can be adduced, happened in this parish, is too remarkable to be omitted; and more particularly in a country where the phenomena of earthquakes, or any of those deviations from the ordinary course of nature which occasion changes of things and places, so very rarely occur. We accordingly copy the account of it from a book which, from its general character, we have gladly respected upon any question where authenticity was concerned.

“ REMARKABLE OCCURRENCES.

“ In the year 1596 the following astonishing scene happened in this parish, in  
 “ two closes, separated from each other only by a hedge, about a mile and a half  
 “ southward from the town, not far from the east end of the common highway,  
 “ called Ockham-hill, leading from London towards Buckhurst in Suffex; when  
 “ on December 18, a part of them containing twelve perches long, was found to  
 “ be sunk six feet and an half deep, the next morning sixteen feet more, the third  
 “ morning eighty feet more at least; and so from day to day. This great trench  
 “ of ground, containing in length eighty perches, and in breadth twenty-eight,  
 “ with the hedges and trees thereon, began to loose itself from the rest of the ground  
 “ lying round about it, and therewithal to move, slide, and shoot southward, day  
 “ and night, for the space of eleven days. The ground of two water-pits, the  
 “ one having six feet depth of water, and the other twelve feet at least, and about  
 “ four perches over in breadth, having fundry tufts of alders and ashes growing  
 “ in their bottoms, with a great rock of stone underneath, were not only removed  
 “ out of their places, and carried southward, but mounted aloft and became hills,  
 “ with their sedge, flags, and black mud upon the tops of them, higher than the  
 “ face of the water which they had forsaken; and in the place from which they  
 “ had been removed, other ground which lay higher, had descended, and received  
 “ the water on it. In one place of the plain field there was a great hole made, by  
 “ the sinking of the earth, thirty feet deep; a hedge, with its trees, was carried  
 “ southward, and there were several other sinkings of the earth, in different places,  
 “ by which means where the highest hills had been, there were the deepest dales,  
 “ and where the lowest dales were before, there was the highest ground.

“ The whole measure of the breaking ground was at least nine acres; the eye-  
 “ witnesses to the truth of which were, Robert Bostock, Esq. justice of the peace;

“ Sir



“ Sir John Studley, vicar ; John Dowling, gentleman ; and many others of the  
“ neighbourhood.

“ In the spring of 1756 at Toy’s-hill, about a mile and a half eastward from the  
“ above, a like circumstance was observed, in a field of two acres and an half, the  
“ situation of which was on the side of a hill, inclining toward the south, the land  
“ of which kept moving imperceptibly till the effect appeared, for some time, by  
“ which means the northern side was sunk two or three feet, and became full of  
“ clefts and chafms, some only a foot deep, others as large as ponds, six or eight  
“ feet deep, and ten or twelve feet square, and most of them filled with water.  
“ Part of a hedge moved about three rods southward, and though straight before,  
“ then formed an angle with its two ends. Another hedge separated to the dis-  
“ tance of eight feet ; the southern part, which was on a level before with the rest of  
“ the field, after this overhung it like a precipice, about the height of twelve feet ;  
“ and the land on each side, which had not moved, was covered with the rest, which  
“ folded over it, to the height of six or seven feet.”—There is no possibility to  
know why these extraordinary circumstances happened so near together, though at  
so great a distance of time.

The parish is in the diocese of Rochester, and in the deanery of Malling : the  
church, dedicated to St. Mary, is a handsome building, and though large, not  
sufficiently so for the inhabitants ; Eleanor, queen of Edward I. gave the advow-  
son of it, with its chapels, to the prior and convent of Canterbury ; it is now vested  
in Mrs. Harriet Bodicoate, who has presented it to the Rev. Richard Board. It  
is valued in the king’s books, including the chapel of Eatonbridge annexed,  
at 19*l.* 19*s.* 4½*d.*

#### E A T O N B R I D G E.

EATONBRIDGE lies to the south of Westerham, taking its name from its  
having had a bridge built over the Eden, a small river, which is one of the heads  
of the Medway ; it has been written Eddelnefbrege, Edilnebrigg, and in Latin,  
Pons Edelmi. Part of it towards the east is in the hundred of Somerden. Here  
the weald, or woody part of Kent commences. The land is rich ; but being either  
clay or swampy, it is extremely unpleasant to travellers, and in winter the cross roads  
are almost impassable, but it is not unwholesome. The people being more detached,  
become less refined ; they, however, are wealthy ; and the land pays well to the  
owner,



owner, as the country every where abounds in wide hedge-rows of timber trees, especially oak; the houses are chiefly of that material, and which was so common a mode of building in former ages: every thing here reminds the traveller of the situation and the mode of living in the beginning of the last century, or what the state of the people in the most distant parts of England is now.

The river Eden crosses the village, which has nothing remarkable to detain us; but this district is rich in its number of manors, paramount to which was that of Westerham. The first to be mentioned is the manor of Stangrave, or Eatonbridge; which, like all others, once gave name to the family that possessed it; from the Stangraves it passed to John Dynley, who sold it to Hugh de Audley, earl of Gloucester, whose heir took it to the Staffords, who lost it by the attainure of the last duke of Buckingham of that name; when passing through various other hands, it is now vested in Mrs. Sophia Streatfeild, widow of Thomas Streatfeild, Esq. of Oxsted, in Surry, who holds courts baron within the manor.

Stangrave-farm, owned by the Bassetts, claims the right to be esteemed a manor. Sharnden likewise did, but it is now generally reckoned as part of that of Stangrave or Eatonbridge: it belonged anciently to the Cobhams, to whom Edward III. granted a charter of free warren; it now belongs to Mr. James Glover, who resides here. Marsh-green, whose manerial rights are appendant to that of Cowdham, is possessed by another branch of the Streatfeild family. Brown-manor gave the name of Brown to its lords: the Hon. Mr. Lumley now owns it, having purchased it of John Boddington, Esq. Hilder's-farm, sold with it, is called a manor; as is Scanes, the property of Henry Streatfeild, Esq.; Crouch-house, belonging to Mr. Richard Killick; and Coben Bere, to John Major Henniker, Esq. These are all the places of notoriety in Eatonbridge, except Gabriels, a seat built by one of the Seyliards of Brasted; from which family it passed to that of Oatley, and from them to the Stanfords, one of whom now resides in it.

As we have given a relation of some remarkable circumstances having happened in Westerham parish, we cannot omit two others, which were no less wonderful in this, and also from the same author.—“ An extraordinary and surprising agitation of the waters, though without any perceptible motion of the earth, having been observed in different parts of England, both maritime and inland, on November 1, 1755; and on the same day, and chiefly about the time that the more violent commotions of both earth and waters were so extensively affected



“ in many very distant parts of the globe, the like phenomenon appeared in this  
 “ parish in a pond, an acre in size, across which was a post and rail fence, which  
 “ the water almost covered ; when some persons near it hearing a noise, as if some-  
 “ thing had tumbled into the water, hastened to see what it was, when to their sur-  
 “ prise they saw the water open in the middle, so that they could see the post and  
 “ rail almost to the bottom, and at the same time they observed the water dashing up  
 “ over a bank, about two feet high, and perpendicular to the pond. They did not  
 “ feel the least motion upon the shore, nor was there any wind, but a dead calm.

“ On January 24, 1758, about two o'clock in the morning, a slight shock of  
 “ an earthquake was felt in this parish, and the adjacent parts, which shook the  
 “ furniture of the houses, and went off with a noise like a small gust of wind.  
 “ It alarmed many of the inhabitants, but no damage ensued.”

Small as this place is, it has its fair, which is held on St. Mark's day, April 25, for cattle, toys, &c.

The church or chapel, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, is large and handsome, with a spire ; it has some painted glass that is good, and there are the remains of a rood loft, which is now become rare in many of our churches.

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#### HUNDRED OF SOMERDEN.

**T**HE next hundred eastward is called Somerden ; but as great part of this lies beyond the bounds we have prescribed ourselves, we shall take only the parishes of Hever, Chidingstone, Penshurst, and Lyghe, omitting those of Cowden and Speldhurst ; we have selected the above parishes because they lie opposite to Tunbridge-wells, which we mean to particularize, though lying a little farther than the space allotted ; and besides, it was thought important to the work to speak of Penshurst, the residence of the great family of Sidney. The court leet of this hundred is appendant upon the honour of Otford. Domesday-book is silent respecting the whole of Somerden hundred ; but this is general to all the places lying within the weald of Kent, Hadlow and Tudeley alone excepted ; we can account for this only from its having then been looked upon as a barren, uncultivated waste, like some of the northern counties of this kingdom, which were likewise omitted in that very select remain, which by the munificence of his present majesty has been elegantly printed *verbatim et literatim*.

H E V E R.



## H E V E R.

THE ancient name of this parish was Heure, or Evere; the river Eden runs through it. The parish is long and narrow, extending from north to south; it is very woody, and its oaks are of a great size. An inconsiderable part of it has the name of the borough Linckhill, which, with other premises, are subject, as to manerial rights, to Great Orpington, possessed by Sir John-Dixon Dyke, Bart.

The manor of Hever, from an early period, was the property of the family of the de Heure, or Hevers, one of whom in the reign of Edward I. had great contentions with the abbot of St. Augustine, which were compromised by the abbot giving him a grant of the lands here, to hold by knight's service. In the reign of Edward III. William de Hever rebuilt, and by a licence from that monarch embellished the mansion; upon his death these estates fell to his two daughters and co-heirs, married into the families of Cobham and Brocas; whence, to distinguish the property of each, they took the names of Hever-Cobham and Hever-Brocas: but the descendants of the first Brocas disposing of his division to a Cobham, that family enjoyed the whole. In the reign of Henry IV. Sir Thomas Cobham sold the entire estate to Sir Jeffrey Boleyn, lord mayor of London, the founder of one of the most splendid fortunes that any family ever possessed in this kingdom; and what was very singular, this tradesman allied himself to the lord Hoo and Hastings, at a time when nobility and commerce were at the greatest distance from each other; the Boleyns were formed to be set at the pinnacle of worldly grandeur, but only to be exquisitely miserable. Sir Thomas Boleyn his heir, by the daughter and coheir of the earl of Ormond, became the father of Thomas Boleyn, viscount Rochford, earl of Wiltshire and Ormond, and knight of the garter; he married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas, duke of Norfolk, a couple the admiration of England; the parents of Ann Boleyn, the ill-fated wife of a suspicious, sanguinary monarch, who "spared no man in his anger, nor woman in his lust:" she and her brother, the elegant lord Rochford, fell victims of imprudence, but not of guilt, upon a scaffold in the Tower; the mother happily had died the preceding year; the wretched father, overwhelmed with honours and misfortunes, sunk into the grave two years after, and with others of his family lies buried in this church, under a cumbrous monument, a fit object for contemplation for the christian, the philosopher, and the politician. He who could not utter a sigh for the fate of so illustrious a family, must



be as hard as the marble that gives us his effigies, harder than the heart of the fickle, inconstant, inflexible Henry, who, after years of connubial mortification, lamented the fate of so unfortunate a lady as Ann, and execrated the lady Rochford her sister-in-law, who had ruined the family of her lord, and who at length, promoting the gallantries of another of Henry's queens, Catherine Howard, paid a just forfeiture with her life. We shall be pardoned saying so much of so extraordinary a family as that of Boleyn, when it is recollected that this was one of their chief seats, and where Henry spent perhaps some of the happiest days of his life, in courting the elegant, accomplished, gay, witty "Mistress Ann Boleyn," the mother of that incomparable princess, queen Elizabeth. The chamber in which Ann slept still retains her name.

After the death of the earl of Wiltshire, Henry seized this seat and manor in right of his late wife, and added to the estate by purchases from Sir William Boleyn, and William Boleyn Clerk, and in his thirty-second year settled them on another of his queens, Ann of Cleves, who, more happy than her namesake, was only divorced; this once wife, and afterward adopted sister of Henry, died here in the reign of Philip and Mary, greatly respected by the English, proving by her conduct that she deserved a better fate; she, however, if not happy, was not miserable: she preferred staying in England to returning to Germany; she was certainly of a pliable nature, veering to all Henry's religious opinions, to those of Edward VI. and Mary I.: more opposite ones could not be. She rode with the princess Elizabeth, afterwards queen, to the coronation of Mary. Her corpse was taken from this place, and interred with great funeral pomp on the south side of the high altar in Westminster abbey, where her monument is of freestone, adorned with the arms of Cleves, and the letters A. C. knit together; it has been engraved by the Society of Antiquaries. Such was the honour that attended Ann of Cleves, even when dead, whilst poor Ann Boleyn's beauteous form was thrown into a coffer, used to keep arrows in, and buried amongst the attainted in the chapel of the Tower, where it still remains without the smallest memorial, though it would have been an act of pious duty in Elizabeth to have removed it to a more honourable receptacle.—The fate of these illustrious unfortunates has kept us too long, perhaps; we shall, therefore, return to remark, that queen Mary granted the seat, manor, and estates, to her favourite Sir Edward Waldegrave, lord chamberlain of her household, who died in the Tower in the beginning of Elizabeth's reign, more for his religion, than his

politics;



politics ; his descendants were ennobled by James II. with whom one of them went into France, and died in 1689. His more fortunate son was created earl of Waldegrave, who conveyed the whole of his possessions in Hever to Sir William Humfreys, Bart. in 1715, being at that time lord mayor of London ; he was of Welsh descent. This family ending in two coheirs, they with their husbands joined in conveying Hever-castle, with the manors of Hever-Cobham and Hever-Brocas, to Timothy Waldo, of Clapham, Esq. afterwards knighted ; he left the whole, with near thirteen hundred acres of land round it, to his widow, lady Waldo ; their only child is married to George Medley, of Suffex, Esq.

It would be unpardonable not to mention Hever-castle as it at present remains. Like most other ancient residences it is moated ; the river Eden being led round the castle, its approach is by a draw-bridge. The entrance is noble : within is a quadrangle furrounded by offices, and the great hall ; at the farther end of which is a large oak table raised a step higher than the rest of the floor, the constant accompaniment to the halls of the great, in ancient time, now confined only to the farm-houses of the distant provinces. You are led up to the bed-chambers by a grand staircase, which opens also to a long gallery ; its ceiling is much ornamented with foliage in stucco : the rooms have oaken wainscot unpainted. On one side of the gallery you are shown a small cabinet or recess, with an ascent of two steps ; it has only a single seat with two returns in it, where ten or a dozen persons might place themselves : tradition relates that king Henry used it as a throne when he came hither ; but this seems improbable, from the smallness of the room. On one side of the large window at the farthest end of the gallery, in the floor, is a part which lifts up, and discovers a passage deep and dark, which goes a considerable way, but not so far, we suppose, as the moat : it is called the dungeon : most castles had such a receptacle for culprits, and they were seldom without unhappy occupants. They show a chamber now with its window walled up, in one of the towers said to have been a place of imprisonment for the queen, when in disgrace ; but she was sent to the Tower immediately after Henry withdrew his protection from her, and she never left it ; her days whilst here were all sweet and pleasant, undreaming of the coming storm. In an adjoining closet is a sliding panel called by her name ; perhaps through this the royal visitant stole softly to tell his tale of love. The windows have been adorned with painted glass : the arms of the Boleyns, their alliances ; and even the Waldegraves remain.



It is said, and probably with truth, that whenever Henry with his suit of attendants intended to come to Hever-castle, he used to wind his bugle horn on the top of the hill from whence it was visible, and within reach of the sound; by which mean his approach was announced, and the fair lady made ready to receive her sovereign bedecked with smiles, and adorned with simple elegance, for she neither loved, nor did jewels heighten her charms, lord Russell declaring, the richer she was dressed the more ordinary she appeared; and on that account it was, that when led forth a sacrificial victim to Henry's violence, she never looked more handsome, as Sir William Kingstone, lieutenant of the Tower, wrote to king Henry.

There was, until within forty years, a court baron regularly held for each of these manors; since then, as they are consolidated, only one, the jurisdiction of which extends over most of this, and several of the adjoining parishes, being very extensive.

Seyliards is a feat which gave name and residence to a family which were created baronets, and branched out into the several parishes of Brasted, Eatonbridge, Chidingstone, and Boxley, all in Kent: the estate belonging to this manor of Seyliards lies partly in this, and partly in the two former parishes. From the Seyliards it came to the Petleys, from whom it was purchased by the Lambardes. Multon Lambarde of Sevenoke, Esq. is the present possessor.

Hever church is a neat structure, but small; it has a spire; it stands at the end of the village, and is dedicated to St. Peter, and is within the deanery of Shoreham, and jurisdiction of Rochester: the rectory is valued at 15*l.* 17*s.* 3½*d.* It was subject to an annual payment of 2*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* then a considerable sum, to the priory of Combwell, in Goudhurst. The present incumbent is the Rev. Stafford New.

### CHIDINGSTONE.

THIS parish was anciently denominated Cidingstane; stane being the name of a stone, it makes the word less changed than is usual; for most modern ones are so corrupted, that if it was not for deeds and other muniments, it would be impossible to suppose the one could relate to what was of so different an orthography.

Chidingstone is about six miles long from north to south, and about two wide. The Eden here salutes the Medway: a branch of the latter rising at Gravely-hill, in Sussex, bends its passage eastwards, dividing that county and Kent. Though in  
the



the weald, it has many pretty rural pleasant spots : amongst these we shall mention Wickhurst-green, Bow-beach, Hill-beach, Carey's-cross, and Ranefley-heath. The village lies near a mile distant from the Eden : from its elevated situation it had the name of High-street.

Its manors are numerous : that of Chidingstone-Cobham obtained its additional name from having been possessed by the family of Cobham, who enjoyed it from the time of Edward III. until the reign of Edward IV. when by a female it passed into the hands of the Boroughs, or Burys, who became barons ; they alienated it in the reign of queen Elizabeth to the family of Streatfeild, who having erected a seat here called High-street-house, have made it their residence ever since, and from whence many branches have dispersed themselves into various parts of this county : it is now the residence of Henry Streatfeild, Esq.

The manor of Chidingstone-Burghersh or Burgherst, anciently Burwash-court, owed its latter name to a family of great eminence in this county, called Burghersh, but by the commonalty Burwash ; who conveyed it away, and after going through a variety of possessors, became vested in judge Willoughby, descended from a younger branch of the lords Willoughby of Parham ; who in the reign of Henry VIII. obtained an act of parliament to disengage this manor, his seat of Bore-place, and other estates in this parish—a proof that he thought it was no privilege to so enjoy his lands. About this period many Kentish gentlemen of great estates procured their lands to be disengaged ; but they have gone through so many hands, and are so widely scattered, that at this time it is scarcely possible to determine what is so disengaged, as a treatise upon this kind of tenure, published some years ago, acquaints us. The Willoughbys sold this manor to the Seyliards, and they to the Streatfeilds ; so that being now held by Henry Streatfeild, of High-street-house, Esq. as well as the other of Chidingstone-Cobham, they are now consolidated ; and have unitedly one court baron.

The seat of Bore-place, the mansion of the De Bores, with the manor of Milbroke, was disposed of by them in the reign of Henry VI. to John Alphew, who rebuilt the former, and dying, left his two daughters his heirs ; Margaret, one of them, took the seat and manor to Sir Robert Read, lord chief justice of the common pleas, who much enlarged Bore-place : Bridget, the eldest of his four daughters and coheirs, brought these estates to Sir Thomas Willoughby, also lord chief justice of the common pleas, who still farther enlarged the seat. In the reign of James I. the whole



whole came by sale to Mr. Bernard Hyde, the benevolent citizen of London; from his family they were purchased by the Streatfeilds, and are now a part of the estates of the gentleman of that name of High-street-house, who in right of his manor of Milbroke holds a court baron.

The manor of Bowzell, formerly Borefell, rather belongs to Chevening parish; it has been enjoyed by the Cobhams, Boroughs or Burghs, Whitleys, Bonnells, and is now the property of the baronet family of Rycroft.

Ranesley, anciently written Rendesley, is a manor which was at an early period owned by the family of Rendesley or Rennesley; it came afterwards to the Alphews, the Reads, Willoughbys, Bonds, and other families, until it vested in that of the present possessor, John-Shelley Sidney, Esq. by the will of his grandmother.

The rectory is a peculiar, and in the gift of the archbishop of Canterbury, and lies in the deanery of Shoreham; the church is large and handsome, having three aisles and as many chancels, with a steeple; there are some good monuments of the Streatfeild family, and of some other gentry buried there: the preferment is considerable, being valued in the king's books at 28*l.* 9*s.* 4½*d.*; it is now held by the Rev. Sackville-Spencer Ball, L. L. B. also rector of Withiam in Suffex.

#### P E N S H U R S T.

STILL more eastward is Penshurst, meaning high or lofty wood; hurst or herst is the old word for wood in this part of the kingdom: some centuries ago it was written Penneherst; but its most ancient name was Pencestre, or, as it was usually termed, Penchester, significant of a high fortification or camp having been built here by the Romans.

The Eden here meanders in separate streams, but uniting also with the more noble Medway directs its course towards Tunbridge. Some part of the parish is swampy, which makes the roads unpleasant; its woods are very beautiful, and the timber extremely fine: in Penshurst-park was felled, a few years ago, a single tree which had not less than twenty-one tons in it, or eight hundred and forty feet of timber; this tree had acquired the name of Broad Oak, from its wide-spreading branches; there is an engraving of it. Here is a fair held on July 1, for pedlary and other wares.

This parish has a very considerable part of it held of the honour of Otford, subordinate



ordinate to which is the manor of Penshurst-Halimote, or Otford-Weald, that spreads itself over Chidingstone, Hever, and Cowden parishes. These were held of the archbishops of Canterbury, but who had little more than a nominal claim; and this was passed away with Otford by the meek and pious Cranmer to Henry VIII. in exchange; the crown has constantly retained it, except that, during the usurpation, the republican government had conveyed it to colonel Robert Gibbon, who lost it at the Restoration: the tenure is partly gavel-kind, and, which is rare in Kent, partly copyhold. But excepted out of this jurisdiction is Hallborough, in the lowy of Tunbridge, owning Mr. Streatfeild for its lord, and Chafford, within the cognisance of the court of the dutchy of Lancaster. The honour of Otford, as well as the manor of Penshurst, is held by the duke of Dorset, as high steward of both, under the crown; but the fee-farm rents were alienated from it by Charles II. to the Dashwood family, and it is now enjoyed by Sir James Dashwood, Bart.

The manor of Penshurst came through a variety of families from that of de Peneshurste or Pencheſter, until it vested in John duke of Bedford, third son of Henry IV. who dying without issue, it descended to his brother Humphry duke of Gloucester, on whose violent death it vested in the crown, which granted it to the Stafford family, to whom it was lost by the attainure of Edward duke of Buckingham, in the reign of Henry VIII. who was so pleased with the situation, that he retained it in his own hands, purchased lands adjoining to it, and enlarged the park: Well-place was part of these acquired premises, with an estate belonging to it, containing 170 acres of land, purchased of John, and William Fry. The king enclosed the whole within a pale fence, though the conveyance was not completed until the reign of Edward VI. who gave the park to John Dudley, earl of Warwick, afterwards duke of Northumberland; but he, in the fourth year of that reign, exchanged it with other lands; when the manor, seat, and all its lands, were granted to Sir Ralph Fane, to hold *in capite* by knight's service; but this unhappy gentleman fell a victim to the factions which disgraced the government under this young monarch; he was put to death in the sixth year of that reign, on Tower-hill, as an accomplice to the equally unfortunate duke of Somersét, his patron. The estate reverted to the crown.

King Edward in the same year, by letters patents, granted the whole to Sir William Sidney and his heirs; the premises are described to be his majesty's manor and park of Penshurst, le-court lands in Penshurst and Chidingstone, the manor of



Endsfield, called Endsfield-farm, and his park of Lyghe, by estimation 300 acres of land, to hold by the same service by which they had been granted to Sir Ralph Fane. It would be unpardonable to pass by this illustrious family of Sidney with only a slight mention.

Sir William, the eldest son and heir of a knight, one of the heroes of Flodden-field, chamberlain and steward to prince Edward, and at his accession, of his privy chamber, was educated with the young monarch, though some years older; knighted by king Edward, made one of the gentlemen of the privy chamber, and sent ambassador into France when only twenty-one years old. He supported his expiring master in his arms, after whose premature death he retired to Penshurst to indulge his grief; by this the misfortunes that overwhelmed the duke of Northumberland, his father-in-law, were avoided; and he enabled to give an asylum to the remainder of that ruined family. Queen Mary trusted and honoured, more than employed him; queen Elizabeth elected him a knight of the garter, made him a privy counsellor, thrice lord deputy of Ireland; and he died lord president of the marches of Wales, May 5, 1586. His body was conveyed with vast pomp to Penshurst, and his heart deposited at Ludlow, the seat of his government; there has lately been an engraving of the case which enclosed it. By the lady Mary, eldest daughter of John Dudley, duke of Northumberland, he had three sons—Sir Philip, Sir Robert, Sir Thomas, and a surviving daughter Mary, who became countess of Pembroke, whom her brother Sir Philip has celebrated in his *Arcadia*, and Johnson immortalized by the beautiful lines he inscribed on her tomb.

Sir Philip Sidney, the eldest son, godson of Philip II. of Spain, and the delight of England, was born at Penshurst, November 24, 1554. Brave, learned, elegant, and just, he gained the applause of all good men. Elizabeth would read his letters of advice, when she would disregard that of her ancient counsellors, because she knew all his conduct was directed for her solid interest. His letters will do honour to his memory, so long as virtue and sense are estimable, whilst his *Arcadia* is neglected by most as laboured and unnatural. He was mortally wounded at the battle of Zutphen in Guilderland, September 22, 1586, when serving under his maternal uncle, Robert earl of Leicester; and he died at Arnheim, October 10 following, at the early age of thirty-four years, in the greatest reputation of any individual in Europe. His honoured remains were refused the Dutch, who asked as a favour to give them a public funeral; that duty Elizabeth took upon herself, and had



had them brought over and interred with the greatest solemnity in St. Paul's church. Such was the sense of his loss, that for some time after it was indecorous to be engaged in any public amusement. The Christian and the hero never were more closely united with the statesman, and his refined and elegant manners gave a finish to his character, that nothing could exceed. When we see him wounded, panting with thirst, take the uplifted cup, untasted from his mouth, and direct it to be given to a poor, unbefriended soldier, who lay near him in agonies, because, said he, "Thy necessity is yet greater than mine;" we must, we cannot help weeping his fate. There are many prints of him; but that of Vertue, giving him seated on a bank with Penshurst behind him, is most admired.

Waller has commemorated the incident of a tree having been planted in the park here at his birth:

"Go, boy, and carve this passion on the bark  
Of yonder tree, which stands the sacred mark  
Of noble Sidney's birth: when such benign,  
Such more than mortal-making stars did shine,  
That there it cannot but for ever prove  
The monument and pledge of humble love."

Ben Johnson also has celebrated this favoured tree; but the lines allusive to the circumstance are most simply elegant in Mr. E. Coventry's poem, intituled *PENSHURST*;—they must please every one.

"What genius points to yonder oak?  
What rapture does my soul provoke?  
Here let me hang a garland high,  
There let my muse her accents try;  
Be there my earliest homage paid,  
Be there my latest vigils made;  
For thou wast planted in the earth  
The day that shone on Sidney's birth."

We learn from Collins that the tree was remaining in the park when he wrote: it had the name of Bear's Oak; no reason is assigned for such an uncouth appellation, nor can it be conceived why it was given, unless from the Dudleys crest, and favourite device of the bear with a staff reguled. Mr. Haisted says it is still standing at a small distance from a fine piece of water called Lancup-well, and that it is twenty-two feet in circumference.

Sir Philip Sidney married Frances, daughter and sole heir of Sir Francis Walsingham,



singham, secretary of state, by whom he had an only child, Elizabeth, married to Roger earl of Rutland. Sir Philip's widow married again to Robert earl of Essex, the insolent favourite of Elizabeth, who fell a victim to his own rash violence: the queen highly disapproved of this alliance as beneath him. The issue of this marriage was Robert earl of Essex, parliament general against Charles I. The lady, left a second time a widow, married a third husband, the earl of Clanrickard. The elegant lord Lyttelton, in his *Dialogues of the Dead*, makes this lady say how much more happy she was in the last, than in either of her two former marriages; the great Sidney and the ambitious Essex being too much taken up with glory and faction to attend to the endearments of conjugal felicity: he was not unworthy her choice, for Smollett says, he was a very handsome gallant young nobleman, much resembling the late earl of Essex; but it seems very absurd to suppose Elizabeth, then nearly seventy, made advances to him.

Sir Robert Sidney succeeded his brother in his estates. He was a great statesman. Importuning queen Elizabeth for a peerage, which, as descended maternally from the Dudleys, he judged he had almost a claim to demand, she sent him to Flushing, and under flattering pretences kept him there many years. James I., as lavish, as Elizabeth was sparing of honours, created him lord Sidney of Penshurst, viscount Lisle, and earl of Leicester; elected him knight of the garter, a privy counsellor, and lord president of Wales. Dying in 1626, he was succeeded in his titles and estates by

Robert, second earl of Leicester, no less a politician than his father, having represented James I. at the courts of Denmark, France, and some of those in Germany, was appointed lord lieutenant of Ireland upon the earl of Strafford's removal; but siding with the parliament, he excused his going thither: he had the care of the duke of Gloucester and the princess Elizabeth, children of Charles I. At the Restoration he paid his duty at Whitehall. Charles II. received him with respect; their manners were totally dissimilar: being excused attendance, he returned to Penshurst. He died in 1677, blameable in deserting his royal master, because Henrietta-Maria his queen had disobliged him; yet respectable not only for his abilities, but for many private virtues. He was father of his successor, Algernon, the pride of the republicans, and whose death was certainly illegal (for his history we must refer our reader to Mr. Noble's *Lives of the Regicides*); Robert, who died at Penshurst in 1674, and Henry, created by William III. baron of Milton,

viscount



viscount Sidney of the isle of Shepey, and earl of Romney; also several daughters—Dorothy; Lucy, married to Sir Thomas Pelham, Bart.; Ann, to Joseph Cart, A. M.; and Isabella, to Philip viscount Strangford. Dorothy, the eldest, was Waller's Sacharissa, a lady whose beauty was beyond expression great; there are two portraits of her at Beaconsfield, the seat of the poet, and likewise a miniature pendent to a valuable string of pearls. The wonder is not that he should love, but that any one should do otherwise: she admired the poet, but, fired with ambition, gave her hand to Henry lord Spencer, afterwards created earl of Sunderland, who was killed on the royal side in the civil war, by whom she had Robert earl of Sunderland, the most perfidious character that has stained our annals, the betrayer of James II. and equally untrue to William III. The beauteous Sacharissa mourned the death of the husband of her youth, but afterwards was prevailed upon to give her hand to Robert Smith of Bidborough, Esq. a match in point of worldly prudence unequal to that of her adoring Waller. The countess late in life asking the poet when he would write such fine poems upon her, received for answer, "When you are young again." An unpublished anecdote of Mr. Waller, received from one of his family, must not be omitted. He as a gay courtier was to appear in the royal presence to meet his all-charming Sacharissa. Every thing was prepared with the nicest care; a ruff of the finest lace and of the largest circumference procured, and a cottager entrusted with it; the man having opened the box that contained it, viewed the strange thing with wonder; the whim took him to put it about the neck of his master's faithful dog who accompanied him; with some difficulty he accomplished it: the creature, surprised and alarmed at the great wired, stiffened, expanded lace, leaped from the man, and run with the utmost speed, followed by the astonished messenger, who with grief saw him dash through the hedges, leaving upon the brambles fragments of the ill-fated ruff designed to adorn the neck of the expecting beau; who at length knowing the catastrophe, having vented his rage at the cur and the clown, was obliged to go to court and to his Sacharissa, less splendidly adorned than he had intended.

Philip, third earl of Leicester, the next possessor of Penshurst, condescended to sit in Oliver the Protector's upper house (see Mr. Noble's *Memoirs of the Cromwells*). He died in 1702. Three of his sons were successively earls of Leicester; Philip, who died in 1705; John, in 1737; and Joceline, the last earl of Leicester of this family, in 1743. The former and the latter married, but had no child. No two brothers ever

were



were more dissimilar than the two last noblemen ; earl John being in the highest trust and confidence with his sovereigns, George I. and George II. who made him a lord of the bedchamber, warden of the cinque ports, constable of Dover-castle, knight of the Bath, captain of the yeomen of the guards, lord lieutenant of Kent, privy counsellor, and constable of the Tower. He was not less beloved in private life, than trusted in a public capacity : but he had an unfortunate attachment, which he wanted strength of mind sufficient to break through, until the united solicitations of his best friends, and of the object of his regard, made him at length consent to marry ; that his titles might not be contaminated by coming to so weak and so imprudent a person as his brother Joceline. Besides, too, even Joceline had not any legitimate child. All preliminaries being settled, it was agreed that the frail fair should leave his house the next morning early, to prevent the pain of parting, and his lordship went out to spend the evening ; coming home late, and passing through a suite of apartments he had been unaccustomed ever to see, as he went to his bed-chamber he heard a noise like some one in violent pain. Led by the sound, he entered the room in which this gentlewoman was, and found her suspended to the top of the bed, struggling with death : instantly taking her down, by proper methods she was recovered. He then excused himself to the lady he was going to marry, and to her friends, declaring that he never could desert one, who had owned she could not live without him. He thought her preservation by him was almost miraculous, as she never had slept before in the chamber in which he discovered her, nor had he ever gone through the same range of rooms. He was the more struck with her passion for him, as he had been more pressed to break their connexion by her than any other, pleading to him that his honour and interest united to urge him to it : by no arguments could she be prevailed upon to accept but a moderate annuity just sufficient for a maintenance. It would have been criminal to have parted from such a woman ; it would have been virtuous and glorious, despising the opinion of the gay and inconsiderate, to have given her a legal claim to his love.

The title at length vested in Joceline his brother, who disgraced himself and it, as had been foreseen. His countess, Elizabeth, daughter of a gentleman of the name of Thomas in Glamorganshire, was no less profligate. They separated, each pursuing their guilty pleasures. After their parting she had several children. He left an illegitimate daughter, to whom he bequeathed the whole of his estates, which disposition was disputed by his nieces, daughters and coheirs of the Hon. colonel Thomas Sid-



ney—Mary, married to Sir Brownlow Sherard, of Lowthorpe, in Leicestershire, Bart.; and Elizabeth, to William Perry, of Turville-park, in Buckinghamshire, Esq. At length a compromise, sanctioned by an act of parliament, took place, which established them as tenants in common of the manors of Penshurst, Cepham, Howsbroke, Hepsbroke or Ford-place, West Lyghe, East and West Eweherst, Rendfley, Penshurst-place, and the part consisting of 419 acres of land within the park pales, Well-place also within the park; Ashore, part of it, with other parcels belonging to it, and the other estates comprised in the act, some of which they divided into distinct moieties: Sir B. Sherard and his lady taking the mansion of Ford-place farm, Ensfield, Moody's farm, Upper Latterhams or Warrens, Lyghe-park, South-park Priory and Crouch-lands, Court-lands, and other open and woodlands, with the advowsons of the churches of Lyghe and Cowden.—Mr. and Mrs. Perry received the advowson of Penshurst, parsonage farm at Lyghe, messuages and premises called Nashes, Doubletons, Redleaf, and other lands and woods appurtenant to them.

Lady Mary, the elder coheirefs, dying without issue, devised her interest in the estates to the baronet Younge family, seated at Escot, in Devonshire, who disposed of the undivided moiety to Mrs. Perry, the other coheirefs; and they also conveyed the divided moiety to Richard Alnutt, Esq. a merchant of London, who erected a seat here, called, from the name that part of the estate had borne, South-park; who left it with its manerial rights, and the other part of the estates he had purchased, to trustees for the benefit of his grandson, Richard Alnutt, Esq. the present proprietor and resident.

Mr. Perry, who by sign manual in 1752 took the surname of Sidney, repaired and beautified Penshurst-place, and added many valuable pictures to the collection there, purchased by him in Italy. Dying in 1757, he left his widow in possession of what had been apportioned to her; and she, in 1770, added to these estates purchased of lady Younge and Sir George Younge, K. B. her son: when, to the surprise of all, the whole was claimed by John Sidney, Esq. who also challenged the title of earl of Leicester, founding his pretensions upon this, that as his mother, the wife of Joceline the last nobleman, had never been divorced, he, as eldest son-in-law, was entitled to be representative of that nobleman, as much as if he had been owned by him as his son and heir-apparent. The cause, one of the most singular upon record, was tried in 1782 in the court of common pleas, being on a writ of right,

“ The



“ The proceedings of which,” says my author, “ are all ancient and singular, by  
 “ a grand assize, consisting of four knights of this county, with twelve gentlemen  
 “ their companions, the tenor of whose oath is to say, whether the tenant who  
 “ possesses the lands has more right to hold the lands than the demandant has to  
 “ demand them. But Mrs. Perry, in support of her right, exhibiting the will of  
 “ Joceline earl of Leicester, to whom the demandant claimed to be son and heir,  
 “ by which the estates in question were devised away from him, and consequently  
 “ he could not claim them by heirship to the earl; and as the issue to be tried was  
 “ solely, whether the demandant had a better title than the tenant?—the old maxim  
 “ of the law, *melior est conditio possidentis*, was cited, to prove that Mrs. Perry’s  
 “ title being in possession, was better than that of Mr. Sidney the demandant, who  
 “ had no possession, and had lost all right by the above will, which gave them  
 “ away to another, let the claim of the deviser against Mrs. Perry be what it would;  
 “ and the court was of this opinion, and the grand assize unanimously gave their  
 “ verdict in her favour.”—Mr. Sidney was equally unsuccessful in his claim to  
 the earldom of Leicester.

Mrs. Perry, or, more properly speaking, Sidney, died in 1783, having lost her only son Algernon Perry Sidney, who died unmarried in 1768, and leaving only two daughters and coheirs; Elizabeth, married to Bishe Shelley, Esq. and Frances, to Mr. Poictiers: though the latter also had children, she devised all these estates to trustees for the benefit of her grandson, John Shelley, Esq. conditionally, that he procured the surname of Sidney; and he now resides here.

The extraordinary history of the Sidney family, the peculiar circumstances of the descent of their property here, will plead excuse for so long a relation.—Something must now be said of the ancient seat of Penshurst. This old mansion is a hollow square, irregularly built; the tower in the front was erected by the first Sir Henry Sidney, as a monument of gratitude to the generous monarch who had granted it to his father. The house stands in the south-west corner of the park, which, though diminished, contains more than 400 acres, finely wooded with oak, beech, and chestnut trees, beautifully diversified, and through it flows the Medway. The state rooms are superbly furnished; but its collection of pictures, especially the portraits of the Sidneys and Dudleys, with the monarchs who favoured them, are far the most valuable: some of these are by Holbein, as are others. We



cannot quit this charming spot, consecrated by having been the residence of such illustrious characters in every thing great, without a sigh, remembering that

“ Here mighty Dudley once would rove,  
To plan his triumphs in the grove ;  
There looser Waller, ever gay,  
With Sacharissa in dalliance lay ;  
And Philip, fidealong yonder spring,  
His lavish carols wont to sing.”

There is an estate here called Salmans, once the seat of a family so denominated, who remained possessed of it until the reign of Henry VI. : it afterwards was owned by the Rowes. Derking-hall or Darkenols, formerly belonging to the Willoughbys, Seyliards, Scullards, is now vested in the Streatfeilds.

The manor of Hepsbrooke, whose mansion has the name of Ford-place, was the ancient residence of the Sidneys, before they procured the grant of Penshurst-place ; it followed the course of descent we have mentioned. Since the time of Sir William Sidney it came in the division of estates to the two coheiresses of the Hon. colonel Sidney, and vested wholly in Mrs. Perry, by purchasing the other moiety of the Younge family, and was devised by her to John Shelley Sidney, Esq. with the exception of the farm, or demesne lands called Ford-place farm, disposed by lady and Sir George Younge to the Alnutts, who still enjoy it.

Chafford-place, so many centuries the residence of the River family, situated at the southern extremity of the parish, was taken down by its purchaser, Mr. William Saxby, who built upon its site a farm-house. It is now possessed by James Harbroc, Esq. remarried to the widow of Robert Burges, Esq. who had purchased it of Mr. Saxby.

Redleaf-house stands in the north-west part of Penshurst, once the Spencers', the last of whom devised it to Thomas Harvey, of Tunbridge, who left it by his will to the Rev. Thomas Harvey, the resident, his son.

This parish is in the deanery of Shoreham, and is a peculiar of his grace of Canterbury : the church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, is large and venerable, and has three chancels, with a spire. It is rich in ancient and splendid monuments. The family of Sidney are patrons. The Rev. Matthew Nicholas, S. T. P. is the present rector. This preferment is valued in the king's books at 30*l.* 6*s.* 0½*d.*



## L Y G H E.

TO the east of Penshurst is Lyghe, written also Leigh, and West Leigh, formerly La Lye, and more anciently Leaga, the signification of which is feeding or pasture: our Anglo-Saxons, like all the other nations of antiquity, giving names appropriate to places. It is, however, not so moist a soil as the parish we have just left; its extent is from north to south about three miles and a half, and two and a half broad. It has a fair for pedlary wares, held on the 25th of July; yet it is an inconsiderable place, where we shall not long detain our readers; being, as it were, an appendant to Penshurst.

The manor of Lyghe, or West Leigh, has for ages followed the same descent as Penshurst, and is now part of the estate of John Shelley Sidney, Esq.

Ramhurst was anciently accounted a manor, held of the honour of Gloucester; it was in the reign of Edward I. the property of the family of Rouland, whence it went to the Culpepers, where it remained for many generations. They disposed of it to Worrall, who in the reign of Henry VIII. conveyed it to Lewknor; and in queen Elizabeth's time it became the Saxby's, who sold it to Richard Children, Esq.: he made it his residence, and died here in 1753, upon whose death it descended to his eldest son, John Children, of Tunbridge, Esq. whose son, George Children, of that place, Esq. is the present proprietor.

There is a large tract of land called Hollenden, which, though separated from this parish by that of Tunbridge intervening, is generally accounted as belonging to Lyghe, or at least the greater part of it. It was a manor of itself whilst held by the Freminghams and Cheney's; but prior to the reign of Henry VIII. it lost all traces of such a distinction, from its having been broken into a number of small freeholds.

There is, however, one part of Hollenden which has been kept very entire; and in the reign of the last-named monarch was conveyed to William Waller, Esq. whose son Richard Waller, Esq., left it to his widow, and she took it to her second husband, Stephen Towse, gentleman. He died in 1611, and some time after the Crittendens possessed it, who, in the time of Charles II., conveyed it to the Harrisons, and they about the year 1717 to the Burges's: Richard Burges claimed the manorial rights of it as the manor of Lyghe-Hallendon. This gentleman rebuilt the seat, and dying in 1794, left the whole estate to Sarah his wife, who took it to her husband, James Harbroc, Esq. the present inhabitant.



The church of Lyghe, though small and mean, is rich in ancient memorials of the dead, and there is some painted glass in the windows. It was given to the convent of Tunbridge. It is a vicarage, but the clergyman claims tithe of every thing but wheat: the present incumbent is the Rev. Dickson Lillington, D.D. This preferment is in the deanery of Malling, and charged in the king's books 9*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.* There was anciently a free chapel in this parish, but it was suppressed by the act passed in the first year of Edward the Sixth's reign, and his majesty seized the revenues, valued at 6*l.* 5*s.* per annum.

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T U N B R I D G E.

THE town of Tunbridge stands in a district of its own called a Lowy, vulgarly Lewy; in Latin *leuca*. It is of French origin, meaning an exempt jurisdiction round an abbey, castle, or chief mansion. This lowy was very large, extending over the parishes of Hadlow and Capel; but the latter being out of the district prescribed, will not be noticed.

The parish is very extensive, not less than six miles each way, extremely well wooded; near the river it has fine pasturage, and the best lands higher up are planted with hops. Tunbridge stands in a central situation, and is about thirty miles from London. The roads here branch off to the Wells, to Cowden, and to Rye in Suffex; and one from the middle of the town eastward, through Hadlow to Mereworth, and thence to Maidstone.

The Medway runs through the town near the south end, separated in five streams, each of which has a bridge, from which circumstance it takes its name, the town of bridges: the southern was once the chief; as is now the northern one, which was deepened to form the inner moat of the castle. It is navigable, and in 1775 there was a new bridge erected by the county at the expense of 1100*l.*, from a design of Mr. Milne, but it does not exhibit any beauty. Trade has much increased since 1740, when the Medway was rendered navigable from Maidstone to this place. There is a wharf near the bridge for the reception of the timber brought from the Weald. It is greatly to be wished that the river were also made capable of having larger vessels proceed to the main channel that comes from Penshurst, and which is not more than one mile.

The town, consisting of one long spacious street, inhabited in part by gentlemen, is remarkably clean, both from its descent, and from having 32*l.* the rent of what is called the town land, given at some distant period, applied to that purpose. The end of it leading to London has a fine stone causeway, made at the expense of John Willford, citizen of London, about the middle of Henry the Eighth's reign.

Though Tunbridge was originally little more than the suburbs of the castle, yet it became of such consequence, that in the reign of Edward I. it had its members of parliament; but is now become of far less importance. There are three fairs in the year, on Ash Wednesday, July 5, and October 29, for cattle and toys; besides which they have a very considerable monthly Tuesday's market for the former, and a weekly one, on Friday, for meat and poultry. Two town wardens are chosen at the court leet held every three years. Owing to the strength and situation of the castle, this place has given titles to some of our most illustrious families. The Staffords, dukes of Buckingham, were barons of Tunbridge; the Burghs, earls and marquises of Clanricarde, in Ireland, were viscounts of it; and the Nassaus, earls of Rochford, still remain viscounts of Tunbridge.

It is generally allowed that this place was, in the time of the Anglo-Saxons, part of the demesne of the metropolitan see of Canterbury; but in the violent convulsion that shook the whole kingdom at its conquest by William the Norman, Odo bishop of Bayeux, the maternal brother of that monarch, with a rapacity that peculiarly marked his character, seized this, with much other territorial property of that church, in the archiepiscopate of the meek, intimidated Stigand, and still more after his death, whilst the see was vacant. The matter entirely changed when Lanfranc succeeded the deceased archbishop; he had strength of mind sufficient to contend with his violent adversary, and deputed an officer with his complaints, ordering him to lay the matter before William, who was then in Normandy. The king, knowing the character of his brother, and fearful of injuring the first prelate in his new dominions, determined to have the cause fully investigated, and that too in the solemnest manner.

The most considerable persons for abilities and wealth were fixed upon, selected from those counties in which the archbishop had estates: they chiefly lay in Kent; the remainder were in Surrey, London, Middlesex, Essex, Suffolk, Oxfordshire, and Buckinghamshire: the commissions were such as a cause between
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the two greatest subjects of England demanded. They met near Aylesford; Lanfranc, learned and eloquent, with justice on his side, pleaded his cause in person, and obtained a decision in his favour. The intruder was obliged to restore to the despoliated see twenty-three manors, and amongst them this of Tunbridge.

It happened, however, that Odo had before this given a grant of Tunbridge to Richard Fitz-Gilbert, or Gislebert, a young nobleman, earl of Ewe, descended from an illegitimate branch of the dukes of Normandy, and who had eminently distinguished himself at the battle of Hastings, which transferred the English crown from Harold to William. He, having a passion for the place, interceded with both the king and the archbishop to retain it, and through the mediation of the former with the latter, an agreement was concluded, by the archbishop accepting the town of Brionne in Normandy, with its jurisdiction, as an equivalent; but that neither might be dissatisfied with the terms, it was settled, according to the simplicity of the eleventh century, that the district of Tunbridge should be encircled by a string, and that the same quantity of land should in that manner be inclosed at Brionne.

Thus established, he built a castle, and made it a place of great strength; and so highly pleased was he with this residence, that he took for his surname de Tonebrige. He became one of William's most puissant barons; for besides his great patrimonial inheritance in Normandy, he received 176 lordships in England, exclusive of thirteen burghs in the town of Ipswich, of which Clare was one. Jointly with William Warren he executed the high office of justiciary of England, whilst William was in Normandy, and assisted him in suppressing a conspiracy raised by the earls of Hereford and Norfolk; but declaring for Robert duke of Normandy, in opposition to his younger brother William, who had seized the crown after their father's death, he was besieged in this castle, obliged to make his submission, and swear allegiance to Rufus, to whom he afterwards proved faithful, and was taken fighting in his quarrel in Normandy by Robert, and detained until that eccentric prince resigned to William his dukedom, as he had before his kingdom. He was slain at Abergavenny in the commencement of Stephen's reign, fighting for that monarch against the Welsh. Such was the founder of Tunbridge-castle, and of a most illustrious family in England.

Gilbert, dropping the surname de Tonebrige, took that of Clare, of which he was created earl, the title passing through many of his descendants; the latter of whom

whom had also the earldoms of Gloucester and Hertford, ended in the male line at the beginning of the fourteenth century. The history of these great peers would take up far too much of our time to detail.

It may, however, be proper to give such incidents of their lives as particularly relate to the castle of Tunbridge.—A constant contest subsisted between these potent chieftains and the see of Canterbury, from the time of that haughty prelate Becket, until the reign of Henry III. when an accord was made, by which it was agreed that the earls of Clare and Gloucester should hold Tunbridge and its lwy by the grand sergeantry of being chief butlers and high stewards at the instalment of the metropolitans, and grant them wardship of their children. Whenever one of them attended upon the solemnization of inthronization, he was to receive, for the service of steward, seven robes of scarlet, thirty gallons of wine, fifty pounds of wax for the use of his own lights on the feast, the livery of hay and corn for eighty horses for two nights, and the dishes and salts which should be placed before the prelate at the first course of the feast; and when the nobleman should take his leave, entertainment for three days, at the expense of the archbishop and his successors, at their nearest manors by the four quarters of Kent, wheresoever the peer should make his election, so that he did not go thither with more than fifty horse: and when the castle went into the hands of the Stafford family, we find that these services were retained; but instead of provisions, it was in the fourteenth century both to the de Clares and the Staffords compounded for a sum of money, generally two hundred marks, and the silver gilt cup with which the earl should serve before the archbishop. So late as the reign of Henry VIII. we find Edward duke of Buckingham executing in person the office of steward at the inthronization of archbishop Warham, and the butlership by his deputy Sir Thomas Bouchier. These are traits of character in our history that may be deemed worthy preservation, as they mark the customs of former periods.

Tunbridge-castle was alternately the scene of war and the abode of pleasure, but ever of consequence. Gilbert, surnamed Rufus, earl of Clare, Gloucester, and Hertford, joining the rebellious barons against their sovereign Henry III., was besieged by prince Edward, the king's son, during which the garrison set fire to and burnt the town, to prevent its being useful to the prince; who, however, took the castle and the countess of Gloucester, but gave her liberty: he nevertheless put a garrison in the castle. Some time afterwards Gilbert, convinced of the badness
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of the cause in which he was engaged, joined the royal standard, and in reward for his returning loyalty received again the possession of this castle.

Here it was that he entertained Edward, then become his sovereign, upon his return from Palestine. The reception was splendid; and though the king was desirous of reaching his capital, yet he remained here many days; and so acceptable did he become to the king, that having divorced his wife for her ill conduct, Edward gave him his own daughter, Joan of Acres; who, as part of her jointure, had this castle settled upon her, which she made the place of her residence in her widowhood; and in her second marriage with Ralph de Monthermer, a private gentleman in her service, whose presumption in marrying a princess at first drew upon him the vengeance of offended majesty; but by the intercession of the bishop of Durham, Edward received him into favour, and his merit was such, that he obtained his confidence and affection; and from this second alliance have descended many noble houses. We must here observe, that prince Edward, afterward Edward II. also resided at Tunbridge in the twenty-second year of his father's reign, when he was left supreme governor of the kingdom, whilst the elder Edward was in Flanders.

Upon the death of Gilbert de Clare, the last earl of Gloucester of this family, in the partition of his vast estates to his three sisters and coheirs, Tunbridge castle and manor came to Hugh de Audley, in right of his wife Margaret, the second of them; till joining with some discontented barons, this castle was seized by Edward II. who made Bartholomew de Badlesmere governor; but he also traitorously joining the malecontents, gave the custody of it to Henry de Cobham, whose deputy, Crevequer, intending to follow the standard of revolt and deliver up his charge to the rebels, was ordered to be hanged, and this castle, the scene of his treason, to be razed to the ground: it fortunately escaped, having been one of the four which Edward soon after fixed upon as safe receptacles to deposit the records and charters of the kingdom in; and in the following reign Hugh de Audley was restored to favour, had the earldom of Gloucester in right of his marriage given him, and was permitted to re-enjoy this castle.

Margaret, his only daughter, took the castle and manor of Tunbridge to Ralph lord Stafford, created earl of Stafford, and elected knight of the garter, who died here. His descendants rose to a rank that eclipsed every other subject, having the earldoms of Buckingham, Hereford, Stafford, Northampton, and Perch, with
many

many baronies vested in them, and at length raised to ducal honours, and made hereditary constables of England. Tunbridge-castle was neither neglected nor deserted by this puissant family; but little of consequence relating to it is known whilst in their possession. The archbishops still retaining their feigniory, claimed the ward of the sons of these noblemen during their minority, with custody of the castle; and though they had been left by one of them to Thomas of Woodstock, duke of Gloucester, a son of England; yet these were allowed by parliament to be of right vested in the archbishops of Canterbury.

When Richard III. had cut off the first duke of Buckingham, he sent Sir Marmaduke Constable to reside here, and by writ under his sign manual commanded the inhabitants of the honour and lowy of Tunbridge to attend upon him, forbidding them to take clothing, or be retained by any manner of person or persons whomsoever; and from his ledger-book we find he appointed his trusty friend, Robert Brakenbury, Esq. constable of Tunbridge-castle, with a fee or salary of ten marks. Brakenbury was afterwards knighted by him, and was the TRUSTY FRIEND that murdered the royal youths, Edward V. and his brother the duke of York: perhaps this was part of his fee for the horrid deed.

This castle was forfeited to the crown at the ruin of the last Stafford, duke of Buckingham, when this family, every way so great, fell, to rise no more; and in a course of descents, the last male of them was found with his sister in the lowest state of abject wretchedness. Charles I. who ought to have compassionated the strange reverse of fortune of the Staffords, illegally obliged him to resign his title, which he granted away to a branch of the Howard family.

King Edward VI. in his fourth year gave a grant of the lordship, manor, and castle of Tunbridge, and his two parks of Posterne and Cage, lying near the town, with his forests and chafes of North Frith and South Frith, to John Dudley, earl of Warwick, afterwards duke of Northumberland; but reconveying them to the crown, queen Mary gave the whole of them to hold *in capite* by knight's service, to Pole cardinal archbishop of Canterbury, for life, with the power to demise them to whomsoever he pleased, during a year complete after his death; but he making no such provision, and dying the same day as his sovereign, they became vested again in the crown.

Queen Elizabeth granted these, with other premises, to her cousin Henry Carey, lord Hunsdon, and his heirs male, remainder to the crown; but she gave him a farther

farther grant in fee under the same tenure that they had before been held ; so that from his family they came by an heiress to the Berkleys, by them conveyed to Sir John Kennedie, he to Goffon and Johnson, and they united in alienating them to Sir Peter Vanlore, a naturalized merchant, whose son was created a baronet : this family ending in females, after very complex claims, and many law-suits, the manor, castle, and part of its demesnes, finally settled in Jacoba, married to Henry Zinzan, alias Alexander, Esq. the descendants of whom, in 1729, disposed of it to John Hooker, Esq., whose son, the elegant Thomas Hooker, Esq., in 1793 built a handsome stone seat close to the castle, and laid out the ground with correct taste ; but before it had received the last finish, he disposed of it to William Woodgate, of Somerhill, in this parish, Esq., married to his sister Frances ; and now that gentleman enjoys it.

It must be remarked that the castle presents a picturesque object, and is a monument of its former splendid consequence, once the residence of the first peers, who received there the visits of majesty, though now the abode of the screech-owl and the bat : indeed its glory set with that of the ennobled unfortunate Staffords.

It still retains its court leet and baron. Dues for castle guard are discontinued ; as are some for encroachment on the lord's waste. Some excuse ought perhaps to be made for having so long detained the reader.

There is a large district containing all the north-west part of the lowy of Tunbridge, called Hildenburgh, containing the manors of Hilden, Dachurst, Martin-Abbey, Lamport, Nizell, Hadlow, the lands denominated Hollenden, the small manor of Leigh, or Hildenborough in Leigh, and that of Penshurst-Halymote, all under the jurisdiction of the honour of Otford ; the high steward of which holds his yearly court leet in this borough to elect a constable, borsholder, &c. the singularity of which is, that it should be under the jurisdiction of two manors, the one civil, the other military.

The manors of Dachurst, Martin-Abbey, Lamport, and Nizell, after the attainure of the Staffords, vesting in the crown, remained there until the great rebellion, when they were sold to colonel Robert Gibbon, but reclaimed by Charles II., who granted the fee-farm rents to the Dashwood family, by which they are still retained. The demesnes of Dachurst, Henry VIII. granted to the Skeffingtons, who sold them in small parcels.

Hilden manor, a mile from Tunbridge, was anciently the Vanes', and passing

through many families, came to the family of Dyke, one of whom took down the manor-house: they sold it the Harveys, who now possess it, and hold a court baron.

The estate of Philipots is reputed a manor. It was the seat of the Philipots, and since of the Children family. It now belongs to Mr. Richard Polhill or Polley, of Chatham, one of whose ancestors is said to have been bow-bender to queen Elizabeth: a bow, supposed to have been her majesty's, not many years ago hung up in the house; it was curiously enamelled and studded.

Baden manor, lying a little space from Tunbridge to the south-west, was once of such importance, as to give name to a "borough" of considerable extent; the Badens long enjoyed it; afterwards it was divided: that part which was once the benevolent Sir Andrew Judde's, is now the property of Thomas Streatfeild, of Sevenoke, Esq. The other part, containing the manor, is enjoyed by Charles Polhill, of Chepsted, in Chevening, Esq.; as is the small adjoining manor of Hadlow. Mr. Polhill, about ten years ago, called a court baron, but as no one attended, it is probable none will in future be held.

The borough of South, or Southborough, included within it the southern part of the lowy of Tunbridge. Mention will first be made of the manor of the same name, more memorable for its possessors than its own consequence. From the Clares it went to the Audleys and Staffords, and having been lost by the attainure of the last of them, Henry VIII. granted it to the wise and learned Sir Thomas More, lord chancellor; and at his attainure, to the elegant and equally learned George Boleyn, viscount Rochford, brother to queen Ann Boleyn, who, like the two last possessors, stained the scaffold with his blood; as did its next owner, Dudley duke of Northumberland. How blessed are we in having exchanged such ferocious, sanguinary times for the present! and how careful should we be, in never expressing dissatisfaction with the blessings we enjoy, blessings unknown to our ancestors! Queen Elizabeth gave it to Sir Richard Sackville, conveyed by him to Thomas Smith, Esq. called Customer Smith, whose descendants, by his second son, possessed it until 1790, when it came to its present owner, the earl of Darnley, who holds here a court baron; and a fair is also kept on the 24th of March.

Hayden, or East Hayden, is a small manor at the south-west extremity of the lowy, belonging to Henry Goodwyn, of Enfield, Esq. who holds a court baron for it.

There was a large district, as before mentioned, called North Frith, and another,

ther, still larger, denominated South Frith, each enclosed by pales. This followed the descent of the castle, until the death of Hugh de Audley, earl of Gloucester, when the South Frith went to his youngest daughter Elizabeth, who took it in marriage to the Burghs, and they to Lionel duke of Clarence, third son of Edward III.; and Philippa, his sole child, to that branch of the royal family called the house of York, wherein it continued, until the death of Cicely dutchess of York. It merged in the crown in the person of Henry VIII., her grandson, who retained it in his own hands. Edward VI. granted it to the duke of Northumberland, who reconveyed it to the crown. By queen Mary it was granted to cardinal Pole; at his death queen Elizabeth gave it to her favourite, Robert earl of Leicester, for a term of years; and at its expiration she gave the fee to Frances, the widow of her once no less favoured Robert earl of Essex, who took it to her last husband, the earl of Clanricarde. The parliament sequestered it for the loyalty of Ulick his son, created marquis of Clanricarde, to reward their general, the vain-glorious Robert earl of Essex. At his death it was given to that miscreant Bradshaw, who had passed sentence against his sovereign. It is said to have come, after his decease, to his natural son; and some old people remember an aged man, supposed to have been this person, and reported to have been the possessor of Somerhill. The Restoration gave that place, with South Frith, to its legal owner, Margaret, daughter of the marquis of Clanricarde, who took it to her three husbands, Charles M'Carty, viscount Muskerry, who left no issue; John viscount Purbeck; and Mr. generally called Beau, Fielding: she, after a life of the most wanton extravagance, died in poverty and contempt. These estates were sold by her and John viscount Purbeck, her son, who, as well as his son, claimed the earldom of Buckingham. The family of Hill purchased about 1200 acres of open and wood land, now belonging to the Rev. John Templer.

South Frith with Somerhill was sold to a person of the name of Dekins, which coming to the family of Woodgate, the mansion is made their seat, and the whole are now enjoyed by William Woodgate, Esq. Many small parcels of land went into the hands of various individuals; it is neither necessary, nor, perhaps, practicable to specify them. There is a court baron held for this manor: several of the tenants hold by copy of court roll, a circumstance very unusual in this part of Kent.

Little, or New Bounds, is a seat, built by lord chief baron Bury, now the pro-

perty of lord Darnley. Calverley, another feat, is the residence of its owner, Thomas Pannwell, Esq.

Here was a priory founded in the reign of Henry II., by Richard de Clare, the first earl of Hertford, lord of Tunbridge-castle, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, for the order of Premonstratensian monks, called white canons, which was burnt down in 1351, with all its costly furniture, but rebuilt. It was suppressed, to found and endow the colleges intended to be erected at Ipswich and Oxford, by cardinal Wolsey, at which time it was valued at 169*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.*; but upon that great ecclesiastic's misfortunes, Henry VIII. seized it. After going through many possessors, it is at present the property of the Rev. John-Weller Poley. Some parts of it yet remain; the chapel is the most entire, and is now used as a barn, and a stowage for hops, of which Buck has given us an engraving. Near was a spring, also dedicated to St. Margaret, once walled in, but which has given place to the purer water of the Wells. In this monastery were buried several of the Staffords.

The free grammar-school standing at the north end of the town, was founded and endowed by Sir Andrew Judde, a native of this place, who became citizen, skinner, and lord mayor of London. It was erected in the reign of Edward VI., and he died in 1558. He placed it under the guardianship and care of the skimmers' company, which has behaved with a liberality that does them the greatest honour. The old part of the building is more than 100 feet long: it is of stone, neat and uniform. In 1676 an addition was made to the master's apartments, with an hall or refectory, and a small neat library built by the company. There are also detached offices, a garden, and a play-ground belonging to it. The college of All Souls is visitors. It has had great benefactors; amongst these, Sir Thomas Smith, son-in-law to the founder, stands first; Mr. Fisher, Sir Andrew's executor, was another; Mr. Lewis, Sir James Lancafter, Mr. Worrall, Mr. Robert Holmedon, the liberally benevolent Sir Thomas White, lady Margaret Boswell, Mr. John Strong, and the Rev. James Cawthorn, one of its masters.—There are many exhibitions belonging to it. The skimmers' company visit in much state every year. There are few institutions which have been better kept up. Its masters have been a succession of learned men. The Rev. Vicefimus Knox, D. D. son of a father of both his names, succeeded him upon his resignation as head of this seminary: his elegant publications speak his great merit as an able writer.

A very ample relation of this place has now been given; what relates to the church,
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with which the account of Tunbridge, and its justly-celebrated Wells, will be closed, excepted. The Wells are about thirty-six miles from London, situate on the south side of Kent, but in several parishes; Tunbridge, Frant, and Speldhurst, containing four small villages, Mount Ephraim, Mount Pleasant, Mount Sion, and the Wells: these, if closely united, would form a town of no inconsiderable size. They are almost on the borders of Suffex, and are bounded by Tunbridge on the north, Lamberhurst on the east, a large, and in a great measure uncultivated, forest, belonging to lord Abergavenny on the south, and East Grinstead on the west. They are of no antiquity; their rise was singular. The gay, dissipated, young Dudley lord North had exhausted his constitution by his gallantries in the court of Henry prince of Wales; and was advised by his physicians to retire to the country as the last trial to regain his lost strength. In the year 1606 he went to Eridge-house, a hunting seat of lord Abergavenny, whose park was "an assemblage," says Mr. Aaron Hill, "of all nature's beauties—hills, vales, brooks, lawns, groves, thickets, rocks, " waterfalls, all noble and regularly amiable." This situation, however charming, ill suited a young nobleman in his twenty-fourth year, who had been engaged in all the pleasures attendant upon a court; he therefore determined to leave his retreat and return to town; the solicitations of his friends prevailed upon him to promise to remain another six weeks. Tired with solitude, he broke through restraint, and set out for London. His way lay through the wood in which these springs were; it was in the morning, and he had leisure to contemplate the water, with its surface shining with mineralic scum. One of those persons who instantly discovered what others, less observant, neglect, he sent to a neighbouring cottage for a vessel; drank of the stream, and was convinced it was chalybeate. Pleased with the idea, he determined to have it examined by the physicians; for which purpose he took some with him to town. The faculty coincided in opinion: his lordship, therefore, returned in the summer, that he might add the power of the waters to the purity of the air, and they unitedly restored him to the full enjoyment of his health, and he lived upon the remains of a noble fortune to an happy old age, dying January 16, 1666, aged eighty-five years.

So wonderful a restoration made a great impression upon the public mind. Lord Abergavenny, procuring the consent of Mr. Weller, of Tunbridge, the lord of the manor, came down personally to inspect the place, and to see it cleared of all its incum-

incumbering brushwood. He then had wells sunk, paved with stone, and enclosed with rails in a triangular form. Hither came the afflicted, and returned healthy; but as no accommodations were nearer than the town of Tunbridge, the number was few.

The beautiful Henrietta-Maria, queen to Charles I., being much indisposed after the birth of the prince, afterwards Charles II., stayed here six weeks; but as no house was near, suitable for so great a personage, she and her suite remained under tents pitched upon Bishop's-down. The splendid court formed a fine contrast to the country, every where rude, and in the hands of nature. In honour of her majesty the wells changed their name from Frant to that of Queen Mary's Wells; both have given place to their present one, Tunbridge-wells, though the springs evidently rise in the parish of Speldhurst.

Pleasure uniting with health, first neat cottages, afterwards handsome lodging-houses, were erected; and that trade might be an attendant, retailers took their stands, with various wares, under a row of planted trees in the road which the company were accustomed to take when they went to drink of the limpid stream. Southborough and Rusthall, the one two, the other one mile from the wells, soon had houses for the use of visitants. Poetry aided the fame of this new-discovered spot, consecrated alike to health and dissipation. Waller makes his tuneful verses celebrate the virtues of the waters, in the lines he addressed to his exquisitely beautiful Sacharissa. Dr. Rowzee wrote to prove the fact professionally.

The civil wars that ensued left the wells neglected and almost forgotten; but legal government restored, they shone forth with redoubled lustre. The sincere joy that event brought with it, led the English to an extravagance of mirth and entertainment unknown before. It was seen every where, Tunbridge-wells uniting in the general sentiment: hence we may date the assembly-room, bowling-green, and other appropriate places at Rusthall; and another bowling-green and a coffee-house at Southborough. Lord Abergavenny's old wooden rails in 1664 gave place to a strong stone enclosure, built by lord Muskerry, son to the second earl of Clancarty. His lordship also renewed the stone pavement within the wall, made a handsome basin over the main spring, the better to receive the water; erected a convenient hall to shelter the dippers from the weather, during their hours of attendance upon the company, and made a projection

to preserve the well from any mixture with rain-water. The wells, by his premature death, the following year, in the Dutch war, lost a patron that would, had he lived, have perfected all that could be wanting. Few have ever been deservedly loved or lamented by their sovereign, soldiers, or tenants, more than this elegant, gallant, munificent, and charitable nobleman. The surrounding country caught the happy enthusiasm of the amiable young peer. The circumjacent wilds were spotted with neat, rural habitations; until whim, and some altercations between the lord of the manor and the tenants, soon varied the scene.

Rusthall was deserted for Mount Ephraim; and that for Southborough, which again was eclipsed by the new favourite Mount Sion. Here you might have seen a jovial company with a house placed upon a machine, conveying it to this future abode of pleasure, attended with music and every festive decoration. The town of Tunbridge was now left to its original quiet; for the wells became a complete village, with houses sufficient to lodge all the visitants, owing to the liberal manner with which the lord of the manor granted building and other leases. Benevolence united with piety, raised and supported the school for feeding, clothing, and educating the children of the poor, and the chapel for the worship of the Almighty; which by an excess of loyalty was indecently dedicated to king Charles the martyr; there is only another instance of this enthusiasm. Charles had many great virtues, but he had many great failings; the former were the man's, the other the monarch's.

It must be allowed that no place owed more to the fostering care of the royal house of Stuart than Tunbridge-wells. Henrietta-Maria first honoured it with her residence. Charles II. and Catharine his queen came hither, and delighted in this place. How inimitable is count Grammont's account of the dissipated court whilst here, in that most elegant edition of his *Memoirs* printed by the late earl of Orford; what he says of it cannot be omitted:

“ Tunbridge is the same distance from London that Fontainebleau is from Paris,
 “ and is, at the season, the general rendezvous of all the gay and handsome of both
 “ sexes. The company, though always numerous, is always select: since those
 “ who repair thither for diversion, ever exceed the number of those who go thither
 “ for health. Every thing there breathes mirth and pleasure; constraint is
 “ banished, familiarity is established upon the first acquaintance, and joy and
 “ pleasure are the sole sovereigns of the place.

“ The company are accommodated with lodgings in little, clean, and convenient

“ habita-

“ habitations, that lie straggling and separated from each other, a mile and a half
 “ all round the wells, where the company meet in the morning. This place consists
 “ of a long walk, shaded by pleasant trees, under which they walk, while they
 “ are drinking the waters. On one side of this walk is a long row of shops, plen-
 “ tifully stocked with all manner of toys, lace, gloves, stockings, and where there
 “ is raffling, as at Paris, in the Foire de Saint Germain. On the other side of the
 “ walk is the market; and as it is the custom here for every person to buy their
 “ own provisions, care is taken that nothing appears offensive upon the stalls.
 “ Here young, fair, fresh-coloured country girls, with clean linen, small straw
 “ hats, and neat shoes and stockings, sell game, vegetables, flowers, and fruit.
 “ Here one may live as one pleases. Here is likewise deep play, and no want of
 “ amorous intrigues. As soon as the evening comes, every one quits his little
 “ palace to assemble on the bowling-green, where, in the open air, those who
 “ choose, dance upon a turf more soft and smooth than the finest carpet in the
 “ world.”

Here was the empire of love established. Charles bent to that all-conquering,
 weak beauty, Miss Stewart, afterwards dutchess of Richmond: even the hard-fea-
 tured chymical prince Rupert became enamoured of Mrs. Hughes the actress. Here,
 in one of the constant evening dances at the queen's apartments, the diminutive,
 distorted lady Muskerly, the well-known “ princess of Babylon,” dropped, in the
 quick, mazy dance, the cushion she had placed to hide her advanced pregnancy,
 which was taken up by the facetious duke of Buckingham, and dandled as a new-
 born babe, to the no small diversion of the king and all the court: even the queen,
 though outwardly checking, inwardly enjoyed that mirth which shone every where
 around her, especially in the features of Miss Stewart, who laughed herself into
 hysterics: but the cushion replaced, another round of country dances commenced,
 and the “ princess of Babylon” went through the second evolutions without any
 farther “ miscarriage.” Here, too, the sprightly Grammont became more en-
 charmed with the beautiful, prudent Miss Hamilton, who came hither from the
 melancholy residence of Peckham, and its tiresome master, Mr. Wetenhall.

No apology is offered for dwelling so long upon this brilliant part of the history
 of Tunbridge-wells, where majesty honoured the scene, and beauty bespangled
 every part of its bounds.—After two months, Catharine returned to London, less
 happy than the vain and foolish lady Muskerly, the princess of Babylon, who
 report

report said would have twins, whilst the queen showed no signs of ever being mother to one.

In 1670 his royal highness James duke of York, afterwards king James II., with his dutchess and two daughters, our future queens, Mary and Anne, came to the wells, as did the latter with the duke of Gloucester her son, in 1688; and she might have been the patroness of the place, when seated on the throne, if she had not been disgusted with the mercenary conduct of those, whom she had entrusted with money, to render it more eligible for the reception of the prince.

His present majesty's father, and his illustrious consort, came hither in 1739: the princess Amelia often, and his royal highness the duke of Cumberland in 1762. Their royal highnesses the dukes of York and Gloucester were here in 1765. The princess Sophia came to these springs in 1793, and by using the waters, happily obtained a perfect recovery. Hither also have lately been their royal highnesses the duke and dutchess of York, of whose conjugal, and every other virtue, Britain justly boasts.

Of the waters it may be remarked, that, if not so strong, they are pleasanter than many other chalybeate springs. The air is purer than that of any other part of England, being our Montpellier, consequently the restoration of health to the visitants may be due as much to the latter as the former.

We shall now describe the present state of this place and its environs. The wells, properly so called, form the centre, near which are the markets, the medicinal water, chapel, assembly-rooms, and public parades; the latter are called the upper and lower walk, formerly paved with brick, but in 1793 with Purbeck stone, at an expense of 710l.; the other is unpaved, and used chiefly by country people and servants.

On the right of the paved walk in the way from the well is the public parade, on which is one of the assembly-rooms, the library, coffee-house, post-office, Tunbridge ware, milliners', and different kinds of toy shops. A portico extends the whole length of the parade, supported by Tuscan pillars, where the company occasionally walk. On the left is a row of large flourishing trees, which has a gallery in the centre for music; the whole being divided from the lower walk by a range of neat palisadoes. In this place are three principal taverns, the Sussex, Kentish, and New Inn tavern. The Angel tavern and inn is by the road side

on entering the place, and near the mineral spring : they are all extremely well attended.

There are clusters of houses on Mount Sion hill, Mount Pleasant, Mount Ephraim, and Bishop's-down. The first is by far the most charming, combining all that a romantic situation, aided by taste, can afford. Upon these different eminences are dispersed some elegant seats ; those of the late Mrs. Wogan and Richard Cumberland, Esq. are on Mount Sion. His grace of Leeds has one on Mount Pleasant ; and lady Peachey another, on what is called Little Mount Pleasant. Mrs. Byng and Mrs. Whitaker have houses on Mount Ephraim : Bishop's-down has the seat of Martin Yorke, Esq. To mention any particular houses for the accommodation of visitants would be invidious, unless all were given.

There may be said to be a peculiar trade carried on here—turnery ware, called that of Tunbridge, in which the people greatly excel. A history of the place, more than what has been given, is not to be expected. One disaster alone is recorded, which happened in 1687 :—a fire broke out in what is now called the Flat-house, at the bottom of the walk, which spread so rapidly, that the whole range of shops and other buildings were destroyed, and a child perished in the conflagration : the shops arose more beautiful than before. Here are two meeting-houses, the last built by the mistakenly pious countess of Huntingdon.

It would be unpardonable not to notice the rocks and Adam's well in the vicinity. The first is about one mile and an half distant from Tunbridge-wells. Nothing can be more romantic, and at the same time more stupendous. Here are seen vallies with a stream stealing through them, amid naked, craggy rocks, some of which are seventy feet high, and some thrown by the convulsions of nature upon others, in the rudest confusion, and seem to menace instant death to the curious intruders. The duke of York, afterwards king James II., with the princesses his daughters, first brought these rocks into notice, since whose visits a small house has been erected, and hither the company often make parties.

Adam's well is more chalybeate than those of Tunbridge, and, though till lately inaccessible by carriages, more ancient. It was, indeed, so encircled by briars and thorns, that even foot passengers got thither with much difficulty and distress. About thirty years ago it was purchased by the late Mr. Pinchbeck, who, at the
persuasion

persuasion of Mr. Foster, an attorney of Yorkshire, and others whose horses had been cured by having drank of the spring, made it every way eligible for use, enclosing one part for the poor, and the other for horses and dogs; and with a benevolence that deserves the highest commendation, declared them free to whomsoever should apply.

Tunbridge is in the diocese of Rochester, and deanery of Malling. Its venerable church is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul. Here were buried many illustrious dead; and there are some handsome monuments within, and tombs without it. The vicarage is valued in the king's books at 90*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* It is in the gift of David Papillon, Esq. whose son, the Rev. J. R. Papillon, A. M. is the present incumbent.

H A D L O W.

HADLOW is a borough, in the lowy of Tunbridge: it includes its own parish, except a small district in the northern part of it, which runs into the hundred of Littlefield. The parish is extensive, rich in hop plantations, and no less so in its pasture. The rivulet called the Sheet crosses this parish, and joins the Medway a little above Brandt-bridge. There is a flowing bolt at Harlake-bridge, by which, in dry seasons, they can inundate the meadows, a scheme highly advantageous. The village is a thoroughfare from Maidstone to Tunbridge. It has a wharf, called Hadlow stairs, where timber and coals are chiefly stowed. There is a fair on Whit-Monday.

In the reign of Edward the Confessor, Eddeva held Hadlow. William the Conqueror gave it to Richard de Tonebridge, who held it of that king's half-brother, Odo bishop of Bayeux, afterwards of the see of Canterbury. It followed the descent of Tunbridge-castle, until the attainure of the last Stafford duke of Buckingham, when it often changed hands by attainure or sale, until it settled in the Bartons, by marrying the elder coheir of the France family: Walter Barton, Esq. who has taken the surname of May, is the present possessor. There is a court leet and baron held for the manor, and by a decision of law, it is now settled independent of Tunbridge.

Hadlow-place, anciently the seat of a family so called, went by alienation, in the reign of Henry VII., to the Fanes or Vanes; and by the same mean about that

of Charles I. to the family of Petley; and is now possessed by Mrs. Elizabeth Petley, the widow of Ralph-Robert-Carter Petley, of Riverhead, in Sevenoke, Esq.

Fromands alias Goodwis, is a manor which came from the Fromunds to the Fane or Vane family, and from them to the Petleys. There is a court baron still held for it.

Crombury or East-Crombury, anciently Cranchberi, afterwards Crongeberi, went from the de Horsmondens to the de Mereworths, thence to Fromunds, the Godwins, and the Peckhams; one of the latter sold it to the Fanes or Vanes, and they to the Petleys, who now enjoy it, and also hold a court baron for it.

Cauftons, another manor, gave name to a family who disposed of it to the Wettons, they to the Fanes or Vanes; the Maynards purchased it of them, and sold it to the Kippings; Mr. Thomas Kipping is the present possessor.

Goldwell or Coldwell was once the estate of Beald. It has been that of the Fromunds, Colepepers, Cottons, Chownes; the two latter receiving it by females. It was then sold to the Bartons, who by a daughter took it to the Keriels, by whom it was sold to Mr. William Heath, who leaving no issue, it descended to his sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Burges of Westerham, whose only son, Robert Burges, of Hall-place, in Lyghe, Esq. lately died in possession of it.

Peckhams is a manor that gave name to the de Peckhams, who held it of the Clares. It has been enjoyed by the Colepepers, Cottons, Herrers, Leighs, Rivens, Dallings, and now is vested in Mr. Jonathan Chilwell, by marrying the heiress of the last possessor.

Fish-hall, once belonging to the Fishers, who received that name, because they had the liberty of fishing without control in the lowy of Tunbridge, given them by Gilbert de Clare earl of Gloucester, and one of his descendants had a grant from Henry VIII. of the manor of Hadlow, and soon after of all the rivers, fisheries, and ponds within it. He sold it the Vanes, who alienated it to the knightly family of Rivers, who made it their residence. They sold it to John France, the younger coheir of whom took it the Swaynes, and by them disposed of to Mr. John Porter of Hadlow, the present owner.

Barnes-place is an estate of much extent. Sir John Van Hatton sold it to Sarah viscountess Falkland, who at her death devised it to her husband Lucius

Carey

Carey viscount Falkland, with remainder to T.-Motley-Austen Wilmington, Esq. : he has purchased that nobleman's life estate, and now enjoys it.

The parish is in the deanery of Malling. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is small, with a short steeple. It once belonged to the Knights Templars, and is valued in the king's books at 13/. ; the patron is Mr. James Berdmere.

HUNDRED OF WROTHAM.

THE hundred of Wrotham is west of Larkfield, and contains the parishes of Shipborne, Ightham, Wrotham, and Stansted.

S H I P B O R N E.

THIS parish, written Scriburna in the Textus Roffensis, is below the sand hills, and is accounted within the Weald. It is a disagreeable part of the country, and travelling is extremely bad. It has its fair held upon St. Giles the abbot, September 1, which is of little consequence.

The manor was once possessed by the de Says, and thence went to the de Bavents, a lady of which family gave it to the priory of Dartford : at its dissolution it was granted by Henry VIII. to Sir Ralph Fane, jointly with Anthony Tuttham, Esq., who sold his share to the former, in whose family it remained until the death of William-Holles Vane, viscount Vane of the kingdom of Ireland, who devised it to David Papillon, of Acrise, Esq. It is to be remarked that this nobleman was the character so much and so justly censured for his romantic affection to his lady Frances, the beautiful and accomplished widow of lord William Hamilton, and daughter of Francis Hawes, Esq., a director of the South Sea company. The reader will recollect their history in Peregrine Pickle, from materials which she gave to Dr. Smollett ; but even that indecent relation, nor any other insult to conjugal love, could change his ill-placed devotion to the frail fair one.

Budds is a hamlet not quite a mile to the west of the church. It was formerly the residence of the Collins, since of the Turners, and is the property of George Children, of Tunbridge, Esq.

This parish was the birth-place of the poet Smart, son of Peter Smart, Esq., a native of the bishopric of Durham, whose ancestor was a very factious and justly

obnoxious

obnoxious prebendary of that church, punished for his disloyalty to Charles I., and rewarded for it by the parliament, yet he died insolvent. Mr. Peter Smart was steward to the Vane family, but losing that office, retired to Barming, where he died. Christopher, his only son, the poet, left Kent, lived in London, as poets usually live, and died in poverty and wretchedness, as too many of them have done.

The chapelry of Shipborne is in Malling deanery. It is not in charge; but pays a fee-farm rent of eight shillings yearly to the crown. It is in the gift of Mr. Papillon; the present curate is the Rev. Dr. Vicefinus Knox, the learned master of Tunbridge school.

I G H T H A M.

THIS parish might be supposed of great consequence from the name Ightham, literally meaning Eightham, a place composed of eight boroughs or hams; which are Eightham, Redwell, Ivyhatch, Borough-green, St. Cleres, the Moat, Beaulies, and Oldborough: but on the contrary, it is not more than five miles long, and only one wide. It is neither pleasant nor profitable; much, indeed, is waste land. They have a fair on Wednesday in Whitsun-week, which has acquired the name of Coxcombe fair, but for which no reason is assigned.

It, however, boasts some antiquities. Through it runs the military road of the Romans, leading from Ofham and Camps, pointing towards the west. Oldberry and Stone-street are appropriate names: at the former, signifying Oldborough, is a very considerable intrenchment of that once great people, the cruel enslavers of other nations. It is of an oval form, containing 137 acres; there is a cave, which is supposed to have led to a long subterraneous passage: this place is thought with some reason to have been a castra æstiva, or summer quarters. Two fine springs are in the centre of this ancient enclosure.

The manor of Ightham was, so early as the reign of Henry III., held by the de Crevequers; from that time it passed through a great variety of owners, and is now the property of Richard James, Esq., colonel in the West Kent regiment of militia, descended from a family who have owned it from the reign of Henry VIII. having been purchased by Roger Van Hastrecht, of Dutch parentage, but settling in London, took the name of James.

St. Cleres, or West Aldham manor, joining Kempfing, was originally the property

property of the Aldhams, but came by purchase to the Sidley family in the reign of Charles I. by a female, from whom it descended to the Evelyns; from them in the same way to Alexander Hume, of Hendley, in Surry, Esq., brother to Sir Abraham Hume, who has taken the name of Evelyn, and resides at St. Clere.

The Moat, adjoining to Shipborne, is an ancient seat and manor, with a park. They were long in the possession of the Hauts, one of whom being beheaded by Richard III., at Pontefract, for aiding the duke of Buckingham in his design to dethrone him, his estates were granted to that infamous character, Sir Robert Brakenbury, lieutenant of the Tower, who was sheriff of this county; but after his death, at Bosworth, where he fell with the cruel Richard, the lands were given again to the Hauts; they soon after parted with them. The benevolent Sir John Allen, lord mayor of London in 1526 and 1536, was once the owner of it. His son sold it to the Selbys, which family expired in 1781, when it was claimed by John Brown, Esq., who has taken the name of Selby, and now resides here.

The church, dedicated to St. Peter, is in Shoreham deanery. It is valued at 15*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*; the lords of the manor are patrons. The present rector is George Bithefea, A. M.

W R O T H A M.

THE derivation of Wrotham is difficult to determine. It is written in Domesday-book Broteham, and is generally pronounced Ruteham. It is every way an important parish; five miles in length from north to south, and from two to three in breadth; fertile in its valley, and sterile on its very high hill. The village, or town rather, had its market on a Tuesday, and it still retains its annual fair, held on May 4, for horses, cattle, &c. In the middle of the town stand its market-place and common well, both reparable by the lord of the manor. The great road from London to Maidstone passes through this place, from which it is distant twenty-four miles. At Basted is a paper mill belonging to Mr. Taylor. The Weald takes in part of the parish. The Roman military way went from Ofham through Wrotham, near the Camps westward, leading to Oldborough and Stone-street; but we do not think it was the Roman station Vagniacæ—yet here might have been a town even in the time of the Britons; for about seventy years ago, silver money coined by those, our ancestors, was discovered by a mole having thrown up some of them, which were all claimed by the lord of the manor.

Within

Within these three or four years, in making a new road through this parish, several urns were found by the workmen, who wondered to see so many “ bones jugged “ in that manner.”

In Sir Thomas Wyat's rebellion against queen Mary, his friend, Sir Henry Ifley, in marching towards Rochester to aid him, was overtaken at Blacksole-field, in this parish, by Sir Robert Southwell the sheriff, and lord Abergavenny, with five hundred gentlemen and yeomen, and completely beaten, the rebels flying with the utmost precipitation to Hartley-wood, about four miles from the field of battle, many of whom were killed, and about sixty were taken prisoners: the dead were buried at Blacksole-field. Sir Henry fled into Hampshire, where he was taken, disguised as one who had belonged to a coal-veffel, and in that unseemly condition conveyed to the Tower, and being condemned, was executed.

The Anglo-Saxon monarch Edgar in 964 gave Wrotham to Christ-church, in Canterbury; but it was in the division between that convent and the metropolitical see assigned by archbishop Lanfranc, in 1070, to the latter: but it appears by Domesday-book that there were tenants in soccage under the archbishop, besides what Richard de Tonebridge held of his lowy.

The prelates enjoyed this manor until its exchange by Cranmer to Henry VIII. for other lands. They had anciently a palace here, until it was partly taken down by Islip, to finish that which Ufford had begun: at Maidstone it stood on the east side of the church-yard: a gateway and some remains of the offices are still standing; and the garden, bowling-green, and surrounding terrace may be traced. The park was south-east, and the lodge is still in being: the land has for more than two centuries been disparked. Edward VI. granted the whole to Sir John Mason, he to the Bings, and they to the ancestor of Richard James, of Ightham, Esq., who now inherits it. Walter archbishop of Canterbury had the privilege of a weekly market on Thursdays, and a fair on the feast of St. George, granted him by Edward II. to be held at this his manor.

Little Wrotham lies towards the north-east part of this parish, next to Trottescliffe. Odo also in the Conqueror's reign possessed this manor, as did Richard de Tonebridge in that part which was his lowy; and Godwin and Edwin held it for two manors in the Confessor's time. It fell to the crown upon the bishop of Bayeux's disgrace; but was, in a succeeding reign, given to Geoffry Talbot, who granted the greater part of it to the see of Rochester, which paid aid for half a knight's

knight's fee for it, the whole of which is 130 acres; the remainder, about twenty acres, is the property of Mr. Tomlyn, of Neupiker. Together they pay forty sheaves or shocks of wheat to the rector of Wrotham.

Wrotham-place is on the south side of Wrotham-street. It has been for many centuries the residence of gentry: the baronet family of Rayney were in possession of it at the commencement of the present one, since which time it has been the seat of the Haddocks, and is now the habitation of Charles Haddock, Esq.

Yaldham is another district lying to the west of the church. Its manors are East or Great Yaldham, West or Little Yaldham, and Yaldham or St. Cleres in Ightham, all comprised under the name of Ealdham, i. e. old dwelling. From the Aldham family they came to the Peckhams; the latter were resident in this parish so early as the reign of Richard I.: they continued at Yaldham until the year 1713, when they passed it away to George St. Loe, Esq., a captain in the royal navy, and commissioner of Chatham yard; whose son disposed of it to Mr. Francis Austen, of Sevenoke, who sold it to W. E. Glanville, father of William-Evelyn Glanville, Esq., the present owner.

It is singular that the Peckhams should continue stationary here such a length of time: the most memorable of them was Reginald Peckham, Esq., son of the high sheriff who distinguished himself against Sir Thomas Wyat. Since they have left Yaldham, their mansion is become a farm-house, and the courts for the manor have been discontinued. The tithes were given by Gosfrid de Ros to the priory of St. Andrews, in Rochester: at the dissolution Henry VIII. gave them to the fee of Rochester. W. G. Evelyn, Esq. is the present lessee.

Ford was the manor and seat of Le Clerkes or Clerkes, from the reign of Henry V. to that of Charles II. One of them was particularly obnoxious to the rebels under Sir Thomas Wyat. Another memorable person of the family was Sir William Clerke, knighted for his eminent loyalty by Charles I.; he died with Sir Philip Boteler, his neighbour, at Cropredy-bridge, at the head of the regiments they had raised. The estate went by purchase to Mr. John Know, whose daughter and heir took it to the Bartholomew family, and from them it has been devised to its present owner, Sir William Geary, Bart., one of the representatives of the county. The seat is now used as a farm-house.

The hamlet of Borough-green, a mile from the church to the north, has the manor

of Wingfield, lying within the borough of the same name, belonging anciently to the St. Quintins, who sold it to the Peckhams, of Yaldham; they to the Millers, of Crouch; who, by a female, took it to Mr. Munday, of Derbyshire; and in 1756 he disposed of it to Sarah viscountess Falkland; and it is now the property of F.-Motley Austen, Esq., who obtained it in the same manner as he did Barnes-place, in Hadlow. No court is held for the manor, and the seat of Horsnell's-Crouch, in the hamlet of Crouch, is now only a farmer's residence.

Great and Little Comp are to the south of Wrotham-heath, and are two hamlets, taking their names from two camps, raised, probably, by the Romans. Here was formerly a chapel; the remains are still discernable, which belonged to Leyborne, though there are two parishes between it and this place; the glebe still remains with that preferment, and is a great part of its income. The lands in this hamlet are much divided. A singular circumstance happened some years ago at this place; in falling a tree, a great number of solid pieces of brass were discovered under the roots.

Plaxtool is a very considerable hamlet, and the street so called makes a village of itself. In it is the manor of Sore, anciently belonging to the Colepepers, of Preston, in Aylesford; from thence it passed, in the time of queen Elizabeth, to the Millers: the last baronet dying without issue in 1714, it went to the family of Bartholomew; and with the adjoining manor of Badlesmere, is possessed by Leonard Bartholomew, of Addington, Esq. In the manor-house of Sore is a chapel, supposed to have been used by the people of this district before the present structure was erected.

Fair-lawn is quite at the outskirt of Wrotham, so that the stables belonging to the seat are in the parish of Shipborne. It has belonged to the Bavents, Colepepers, Chownes, and Vanes; the late viscount Vane devised it to D. Papillon, Esq. This house was peculiarly unfortunate; a wing just rebuilt was burnt down in 1739, and before it could be again erected met with a similar fate in 1742: not discouraged, however, it was a third time built.

The chapel stands at the west end of the village; it continued with divine service being performed only casually, until Thomas Stanley, gentleman, in 1638 gave an estate, valued seven pounds, to support a curate; and the parliament, in 1648, divided the whole hamlet off from the rest of the parish, and made it a

separate one, giving a brief to collect money sufficient to build a church there: in consequence, the present sacred structure was erected; but at the Restoration it was considered only as a chapel, and having received queen Anne's bounty of 200*l.*, with an appointment from the incumbent of the mother church, makes a suitable provision for the curate, who is the Rev. Thomas Dalison.

Wrotham, in the diocese of Rochester, and deanry of Shoreham, is a peculiar to the see of Canterbury. The rector has the tithes of the chapelry of Woodland, and the adjoining parish of Stansted; of the former, ever since its chapel went to ruin in Elizabeth's reign; and of the latter, since, as well as before, the Usurpation, when, like those of Plaxstool, they were taken from the clergyman of Wrotham.

The church stands in the town, is a very large and fine Gothic edifice; the chancel was beautified and repaired by Dr. Potter, a late rector. The brass plates are very numerous in the body of the church. The rectory is valued in the king's books at 50*l.* 8*s.* 1½*d.*; the vicarage at 19*l.* 0*s.* 10¼*d.* In this century they have been constantly given to the same clergyman, and unitedly make it the best piece of parochial preferment in the county; not less than 1000*l.* per annum. The rectorial house is a suitable residence to so valuable a living, which is rendered more so by having a large glebe. The vicarage-house is a mean building; it is in the road from Wrotham leading to Yaldham. The Rev. Richard Levett is the present incumbent: he was formerly rector of Berkswell, in Warwickshire, and with it held the chapelry of Barston, in the same county.

We must remark to the botanist, that the pentaphyllum, or creeping cinquefoil, is found in considerable quantities near the town of Wrotham. It appears that this parish had more gentlemen's seats in the two preceding centuries than the present. Formerly Wrotham contributed to the repair of the fifth pier of Rochester bridge.

S T A N S T E D.

THIS parish is north of Wrotham: its derivation is from *stane*, a stone, and *sted*, a place. It boasts of a fine extended prospect; but that ill compensates for its rough, uncultivated surface; chalk, flints, and brush-wood, every where present themselves.

Its manor, esteemed a borough to Wrotham, has gone through a variety of different

ferent families ; and is now enjoyed by Richard James, of Ightham, Esq., whose ancestors purchased it of the Bings.

Scranks, the other manor in this parish, was, in Henry III.'s reign, vested in the fee of Canterbury ; but, in the following one, a family obtained it, who took the surname of Scranks, and after many changes, it was purchased by Mr. John Cox, who, adding other lands to it, built a mansion here, to which he gave the appropriate name of Fairfeet ; but as the view from thence is great, it has given place to Fairfee. He left this estate to John Cox, Esq., his son, who dying without issue, it devolved to his sister Sarah, who took it to her husband, George Wilton, Esq. ; they reside here.

The church is dedicated to the blessed Virgin ; it has sunk to the state of a chapel of ease, and the nomination of its curate is vested in the rector of Wrotham. The parliament in 1647, by one of their pretended ordinances, made it a parish of itself ; but at the return of Charles II. it reverted to its subordinate situation, and as such it is mentioned in the king's books, and without any valuation.

Mr. Haisted relates a circumstance which happened in this parish ; if not well attested, it would seem incredible. “ About Easter, in the year 1666, a pasture
“ field in this parish, which is a considerable distance from the sea, or any branch
“ of it, and a place where there are no fish-ponds, but a scarcity of water, was
“ scattered all over with small fish, in quantity about a bushel, supposed to have
“ been rained down from a cloud, there having been at that time a great tempest of
“ thunder, hail, wind, &c. These fish were about the size of a man's little finger ;
“ some were like small whittings, others like sprats, and some smaller like smelts.
“ Several of these fish were shown publicly at Maidstone and Dartford.”

HUNDRED OF LITTLEFIELD.

WE now descend again somewhat southward to the hundred of Littlefield, comprising only Mereworth, a part of West Peckham, and part of the parishes of Hadlow and East Peckham, the churches of which are in another hundred.

This hundred is judiciously called Little ; in Domeſday-book it is written Littlefelle, and elsewhere Leighfield. It was, in the reign of Edward II., possessed by the crown : that monarch, with the approbation of his parliament, granted it to his

his half-brother Edmond of Woodstock, then created earl of Kent. His daughter Joan, in the end his heir, took it in marriage to the equally illustrious and unfortunate Hollands. It continued in some one or other branch of the royal family after it left them, and in the reign of Henry VIII. it was again enjoyed by the sovereign. Dudley duke of Northumberland held it a short time. Queen Elizabeth, in the latter part of her reign, granted it to the Cobhams: that weak and wicked peer, Henry lord Cobham, lost it for his treason to James I., and it has not since that time been in the possession of a subject.

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### W E S T   O R   L I T T L E   P E C K H A M .

THIS parish is east of Shipborne: it has lost little of its original name, peack, high, and ham, a village. It is rich in meadow land; every part of it is in the Weald. The quarry stone hills bound it to the north, covered with the Herst woods. It is finely watered; a streamlet passes through the parish, upon which are two corn mills. Its two parks were disparked before the year 1570.

The inhabitants were assessed in part to repair the fifth pier of Rochester bridge. The village fair is held yearly on the 16th of June.

The manor of Little Peckham was the estate of earl Leofwine, brother of Harold II. William the Conqueror gave it to Odo bishop of Bayeux. In the reign of king John it was possessed by Beudeville, who held it by grand sergeancy, by the service of bearing one of the king's goshawks beyond sea, from the feast of St. Michael to that of the Purification, when demanded, and this in lieu of every other service. Such tenures appear to us extraordinary; but when we reflect that in the days of our Normanic and Angevine sovereigns, the sports of the field were the first, almost the only royal amusement, it takes away much of our surprise. The manor going into another family, they assumed its name; but it remained there only a little time, and in Edward III.'s reign it was divided; one part of it is now the property of lord Le Despenser.

The other part was taken by Elizabeth, daughter and heir of the Burghs earls of Ulster, to her husband Lionel duke of Clarence, third son of Edward III., whose daughter Philippa gave it to Edmond Mortimer earl of March, and from thence it passed to the Colepepers of Oxenhoath, in this parish, until judge Colepeper, in king Henry IV.'s reign, gave it to the Knights Templers, who  
made



made it a preceptory, commandery, or chantry magistrale, being a mansion where some of that society dwelt, to take care and be stewards of the estates the knights held in that part of the county. The manor was valued at 63*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* per annum, and 60*l.* clear income.

Henry VIII. gave it to Sir Robert Southwell, who, as well as his brother, were ministers to that monarch, and his three children who succeeded him. It is impossible to determine whether most to admire their abilities, or detest their vices; the Southwells were the most profligate family that stains our biographical volumes. Sir Robert was sheriff of Kent in the year of Sir Thomas Wyatt's rebellion, and whose projects he opposed with energy and judgment. The manor was sold by him to the Walsinghams; it came next to the family of Master, and is now the property of the earl of Torrington.

Hamptons, a seat standing at the west end of the parish, with its borough of the same name, supposed in the hundred and manor of Great Hoo, near Rochester, came to the Stanleys, of Lancashire, in Elizabeth's reign, who, by a female, took it to the Dalrymples: the present owner is William Dalrymple, Esq.

Oxenhoath, though so far distant, is accounted in the hundred and manor of Hoo, near Rochester, the court of which yearly elect a borougher for this hundred. Its manor, called also Toxenhoath, is held of that of Hoo, by the service of a pair of gilt spurs: that acknowledgment is discontinued. The Colepepers long enjoyed it: by one of the coheirs of Sir Richard Colepeper, sheriff of Kent in the eleventh year of Edward IV., it came to the Cottons, who conveyed it to the Chownes, they to the Millers; the daughter and heir of the last of them brought it to the Bartholomews, from whom, by a female, it was inherited by Sir William Geary, Bart., M. P., who now resides in the handsome seat of Oxenhoath.

This parish is within the diocese of Rochester, and deanry of Malling. Its church is small, with a short steeple. The priory of Leeds held the great tithes; the dean and chapter of Rochester now have them, and have also succeeded to the patronage. It is a discharged living, but greatly improved lately by queen Anne's bounty. The vicarage was rebuilt by the benevolence of Philip Bartholomew, of Oxenhoath, Esq. The present incumbent is Richard Bathurst, A. M.



## M E R E W O R T H.

THIS parish lies east from West Peckham: it is always written Mereworth, yet seldom so called, but Merrud, a pronunciation nearer to its original name in Domesday-book, where it is given Marourde. It slided gradually to its present orthography, being in the Textus Roffensis Mæruurtha, and Meranwyrthe, very barbarous words.

This is one of those parishes which compose the charming ride from Maidstone to Tunbridge, and having been the residence of nobility and taste, we see every where marks of elegance and expense. Its plantations are extensive, its pasturage wonderfully fine, supporting oxen larger than elsewhere in the county. The Medway glides through, and its woods are beautifully contrasted with the other parts of the scenery, making a delightful whole: it is a landscape not grand and terrific, but such as may be expected from the improvement of man in his highest state of civilization. The one may be awfully sublime, the other exquisitely pleasing.

The manor belonged to Hamo de Crevequer, vicecomes, or sheriff of this county under William the Conqueror, and until his death in the time of Henry I. Soon after it came to another family, who took their surname from it. The de Mereworths resided here, and obtained the royal leave to make their seat a castle; at their failure of heirs male it came to John de Malmains, who sold it to the Brembres, and they forfeiting it by attainure, Richard II. granted it to John Hermenthorpe, who disposed of it to the Fitzalans, earls of Arundel; from them, by a female, it came to the ennobled families of Beauchamp, who took it, and the barony of Abergavenny, to the Nevils; and they also failing in the male line, this estate came by a daughter to Sir Thomas Fane: James I. created and allowed her to be baroness Le Despenser, as some recompence for the barony of Abergavenny going to the Nevils. He was the father of two sons; Francis, the eldest, was created baron Burghersh, and earl of Westmorland; and Henry, ancestor of the viscounts Fane. George, the younger son of lady Le Despenser, had the manor, seat, and advowson of Mereworth, whose grandson devised the whole to Mildmay Fane, Esq. younger brother of Thomas earl of Westmorland, to whom he left these premises: desirous to dispose of all his Kentish estates, he procured an act of parliament to empower him to sell them, but afterwards his lordship was so pleased  
with



with Mereworth, that, so far from carrying his first intentions into effect, of making Apethorp, in Northamptonshire, his seat, he came, resided, and died at Mereworth-castle.

At his death his title of earl of Westmorland, with the estates, came to Mildmay, another brother, who had been created baron Catherlough, of the kingdom of Ireland. This nobleman was the embellisher, the patron of Mereworth; for he rebuilt the seat in a most elegant splendid manner, as also the church and parsonage-house; and adorned the whole place with marks of his munificence. In every situation he was called to fill he behaved with the mind of a prince; in nothing more than at his installation, when to the office of high steward was added that of chancellor of the university of Oxford. Dying in 1762 without issue, the Irish title became extinct; that of Westmorland went to Thomas Fane, Esq., a merchant at Bristol: but the barony of Le Despenser descended to Sir Francis Dashwood, Bart., which also was confirmed by his majesty; and the seat, and whatever else belonged to it in this parish, was devised to him by the earl, with remainder to Sir Thomas Stapleton, Bart. This nobleman, so well known for the magnificence of his numerous buildings at High Wicombe, and for the extreme profligacy of his manners, leaving no issue, Mereworth-castle and its dependencies came to Sir Thomas Stapleton, Bart., who also, by the death of Rachael, lady Le Despenser, sister of the late lord Le Despenser, and widow of Sir Robert Auster, Bart., succeeded to that title. His lordship now resides here; he and his lady Elizabeth, second daughter of S. Eliot, of Antigua, Esq., commanding the love of all around them by their virtues, especially their great benevolence to the poor.

It would be unpardonable not to speak particularly of a seat, the pride of this part of Kent. It is called a castle; but for this there is no other reason than its having been built upon the site of one; it is still moated, has four fronts, each has a portico, those on the sides are closed; the rooms and offices for servants are under the hall, and the most magnificent apartments. In the centre is a cupola, lighted at the top, and from this all the apartments diverge, and the wall being double, admits the flues to be taken to the top of the cupola, by which means the smoke is suffered to escape, without the offensive appearance of chimnies. The wings are equal in elegance to the body. In the front of the house is a large sheet of water, upon which is an elegant vessel. Lord Westmorland cut a road through the woods to join that from London: this was done at a vast expense, being three miles.



miles. The neighbouring hills are all planted, and have prospect-rooms upon them, from which, wherever the eye is turned, are seen elegant structures, forming appropriate objects.

The castle is from a design of Palladio, which had charmed lord Westmorland in a seat near Venice, built for a great ecclesiastic; but it was injudiciously adopted, being rather for the climate of Italy than Britain; besides, it is far less than the original; from which cause all the apartments are too small, being sacrificed to external beauty. Its fine flight of steps, its dome, the grandeur of its wings, all have, however, so imposing an appearance, that few will let just criticism exert her powers. The wing which is now the stables, was the spot where lately the parish church stood: the parishioners were extremely and justly hurt, that the house of God should give place to the habitation of horses, and that ground consecrated for the repose of their venerated relatives' remains, should become a dunghill.

The house has been furnished and adorned by the present noble owner, in the most costly and superb style. The eye of taste is hurt to see the high varnish upon the fine collection of pictures; it proved, as was expected, that they had been sent to London to be greatly injured. Here is a collection of stuffed animals and birds.

Yokes-place, anciently written Jeotes, afterward Jotes, is a very handsome seat, the possession of which has been in the Sharstedes, Clintons earls of Huntingdon, the crown, Fitzalans earls of Arundel, Beauchamps earls of Worcester, the Nevils lords Abergavenny, the Southwells, Walsinghams, and the Masters, by whom it was left to their relation William Daniel, Esq., who in compliance with the request of the testator, took the name of his benefactor: he expended large sums in almost rebuilding the seat, and laying out the adjoining land according to the improved plan as adopted by Brown: it is now the residence of Mrs. Masters his widow, upon whose death it will be the property of the earl of Torrington, Mr. Masters having left no legitimate issue.

The manor of Swanton-court to the westward of Yokes, followed the descent of that part of West or Little Peckham manor, which fell to the knights of St. John of Jerusalem, and, like it, is now possessed by lord Torrington. The house is used by a cottager, and is as mean as such dwellings usually are.

Fowkes, a manor, once an appendage to that of Watringbury, anciently belonged



to the abbey of St. Mary Grace, near the Tower in London. It is now the estate of Sir Charles Style, Bart., whose family have long enjoyed it.

Barons-place was owned by Sir Nicholas Pelham, of Cattsfield-place, in Suffex, who passed it to Christopher Vane, lord Bernard ; since that time it has descended with Shipborne and Fairlawne, until it now, with them, centres in D. Papillon, Esq.

Mereworth is within the diocese of Rochester, and deanry of Malling. Its church, dedicated to St. Laurence, is a magnificent structure, consecrated August 26, 1746. It was built in the centre of the village by John earl of Westmorland, upon the model of the late church of St. Paul in Covent-garden, the design of which was by Inigo Jones. The steeple is fine, but unfortunately the stone of the upper part is sandy, and, though erected so lately, wants repairing. The east window is beautifully adorned with the finest painted glass brought from the old castle. A gallery is appropriated for the use of lord Le Despenser's family ; the church has no pews, but seats like those upon the continent ; the pillars are painted to represent marble : the interior is more gaudy than majestic. In a chapel at the west end are the remains of some of the earls of Westmorland, and with their wives and offspring were removed to that place when the old church was taken down. To the memory of one of them is a very elegant costly monument. The rectory is valued in the king's books at 14*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* The owners of the castle have always been the patrons ; the present incumbent is the Rev. Robert Style, A. M., third son of the late Sir Thomas Style, Bart., and uncle to the present Sir Charles Style, Bart. ; he is also vicar of Watringbury, and is an active, judicious magistrate. The earl of Westmorland equally disliked the parsonage, or the church, so near the castle ; he therefore took down the former, built an elegant structure at some distance, and exchanged other lands for the old glebe, part of which now encircles the parsonage-house, and has been laid out with great taste by Mr. Style, who is the first rector that ever resided in the new house.

We shall not quit this parish without observing that it is very healthy : in 1604 Martha Mills, widow, died, aged 102 years. In the Quarry-hills are still remaining some of the martin cats, like those of Hudson's Bay ; and so late as queen Elizabeth's reign were wild swine in the Herst woods : the Weald anciently had many, from the quantity of pannage or food, chiefly acorns which fell from the oaks abounding in that district.



## HUNDRED OF TWYFORD.

THIS hundred lies to the south of that of Littlefield: it was anciently called Tuiferde, as we see by Domesday-book, significant of the two fords, then over the branches of the Medway, a little above Yalding. It comprises the whole of the parishes of Nettlested, Watringbury, Teston, and West Farleigh; part of those of East Peckham, Yalding, and Hunton, all of whose churches are within it; and some part of the parishes of Brenchley, Capel, Marden, Pembury, and Tudeley, the churches of which being in other hundreds, beyond the prescribed bounds of this work, will not be noticed.

## EAST PECKHAM.

SOUTH of Mereworth is East or Great Peckham, also within the Weald. A streamlet passes through this parish, rising near Yokes, and mixing with the Medway: upon the former is Brandt-bridge. The roads from Maidstone to Tunbridge lie through this Peckham, as does that through Watringbury to Nettlested.

This parish was given in 961 to Christ-church, in Canterbury, by queen Ediva, mother of the Anglo-Saxon monarchs Edmund and Edred, and free from all secular service, excepting *trinoda necessitas*, repelling invasions, and repairing castles and highways. At the partition of that monastery's lands with those of the see of Canterbury, by archbishop Lanfranc, this fell to the monks.

At the dissolution of abbies, Henry VIII. granted this manor to Sir Thomas Wyat the elder, *in capite*, by knight's service, who conveyed it to George Multon; but upon Sir Thomas Wyat's attainure it was reclaimed by the crown, as it had been limited to the heirs male of his father, who had neglected to levy a fine or recovery. Queen Mary gave it to Sir John Baker; from that time it went through various families, until it came to that of the Twisdens. Sir William-Jarvis Twifden, Bart., now enjoys the court-lodge and demesnes of the manor; but the manor has ever remained in the crown, except during the Usurpation, when it was granted to colonel Gibbon, who lost it at the Restoration. The present grantee is his grace the duke of Leeds.

Roydon-hall, formerly named Fortune, was the seat of the Roydons, one of whose daughters and coheirs took it to the Twisdens; and Sir William-Jarvis



Twifden, Bart., still possesses it, and resides in this ancient seat. The manors of Albans or Wimplingbury, generally called Auborne, with those of Eastmere and Spilsted, are now also held by Sir W. J. Twifden, Bart.

The manor of Black-pitts or Guildfords was united to that of Albans for some centuries, but at length by an heiress of the Stidulfes it came to the Fanes earls of Westmorland, and is now by the limitation of one of them vested in lord Le Despenser.

Hextall's-court was a place of much consequence in former ages; and took its name from a family originally of Hextall, in Staffordshire. In the reign of Richard II. Richard Hextall resided at this seat: his eldest son and heir dying without issue, it passed with Margaret, his younger daughter and coheir, to William Whetenhall, Esq., who died here at the latter end of Henry VI.'s reign. Margaret his widow was remarried to Henry Ferrers, Esq., seated at Hambleton, in Rutlandshire; he was second son of Thomas Ferrers, of Tamworth-castle, in Warwickshire, and, it may be presumed, resided here, as he was sheriff of this county in the ninth year of Edward IV. and third of Henry VII. At his death Hextall reverted to the son of her first husband, and Sir Edward Ferrers, her eldest son by her second marriage, settled at Baddesley-Clinton, in Warwickshire, ancestor of the antiquary of that name. That seat is still possessed by Edward Ferrers, Esq., the head of that ancient and once illustrious house, which has given earls to Derby, and has had so many barons of Groby. The windows at Baddesley, rich in emblazonry, exhibit the arms of the Hextalls with others, their marriages and descendants, from the time of the Norman conquest until the seventeenth century. One of the Hextalls disgavelled this estate by an act of parliament; from them it passed to John Fane earl of Westmorland, and is now the property of lord Le Despenser.

The borough of Stokenbury, mentioned in Domesday-book as the property of Ralph Fitz-Tuold, held of the bishop of Bayeux, though in this parish, is within the manor of East Farleigh, to which quit-rents are paid, and a boroughholder elected for it.

This parish is in the diocese of Rochester, but is a peculiar to the see of Canterbury, and as such included in the deanry of Shoreham. Its church, dedicated to St. Michael, is large, with a square tower, situate on the top of a hill at one end of the parish, and is close to Mereworth-park. The great tithes belonging to the priory of



of Christ-church, in Canterbury, came to the crown at the dissolution of that religious house, who gave it the newly erected dean and chapter of Canterbury, now patrons of the vicarage, which is valued in the king's books at 14*l.*; the present vicar is Thomas Viner, L. L. D., a prebendary of Canterbury. This parish contributed formerly to the repair of the fifth pier of Rochester bridge, as did that which is next in order of description, as well as some others.

### W A T R I N G B U R Y.

NORTH-EAST from the last parish is Watringbury, in Domesday-book written Ostringaberia; in the Textus Roffensis, Wotringaberia: the derivation is supposed to have been from its situation, which is watery. It is nearly a square of a mile and quarter, and its population is estimated to be eighty-three families.

The village is very pleasant; the land good, though not so well planted as the adjoining ones. The Maidstone road to Tunbridge goes through this parish, and the Medway waters it. The springs are here extremely fine, and a stream rises near the seat of Sir Charles Style, upon which a considerable mill is erected, and gliding on, joins that river at Bow-bridge.

The hamlet of Pizein-well, so called from an owner of a well there, lies in the west part of the parish, and was known as a vill or borough. Lilly is another hamlet belonging to Watringbury, though five miles to the south of it, enclosed by those of Yalding, East Peckham, and Tudeley. The benevolent John Cole, of Horsmonden, Esq., now owns the greatest part of it; Lilly having been left him by his uncle Alexander Courthorpe, Esq. In it is only one house.

“ There was,” says Mr. Hafted, “ till of late years a singular, though a very  
 “ ancient custom kept up, of electing a deputy to the dumb borsholder of Chart,  
 “ as it was called, claiming liberty over fifteen houses in the precinct of Pizein-  
 “ well, every householder of which was formerly obliged to pay the keeper of  
 “ this borsholder a penny yearly. This dumb borsholder was always first called  
 “ at the court leet holden for the hundred of Twyford, when its keeper, who was  
 “ yearly appointed by that court, held it up to his call, with a neckcloth or hand-  
 “ kerchief put through the iron ring fixed at the top, and answered for it. This  
 “ borsholder of Chart, and the court leet, has been discontinued about sixty years;  
 “ and



“ and the borsholder, who is put in by the quarter sessions for Watringbury, claims over the whole parish.

“ This dumb borsholder was made of wood, about three feet and half an inch long, with an iron ring at the top, and four more by the sides near the bottom, where it had a square iron spike fixed, four inches and an half long, to fix it in the ground, or on occasion to break open doors, &c., which was used to be done, without a warrant of any justice, on suspicion of goods having been unlawfully come by, and concealed in any of these fifteen houses.

“ It is not easy at this distance of time to ascertain the origin of this dumb officer. Perhaps it might have been made use of as a badge or ensign, by the officer of the market here. The last person who acted as deputy to it was one Thomas Clampard, a blacksmith, whose heirs have it now in their possession.” A circumstance, so peculiarly whimsical, will excuse this extract.

Edward II. granted a market to this place, now long discontinued; tradition gives the spot upon which it was held to be Chart-garden, now a wood, near Pizein-well, on the south-west part of the parish, where remain foundations of walls and houses, and near it are several draw-wells.

Ralph Fitz-Turald and Hugo de Braiboue held it of the bishop of Bayeux in the reign of William the Conqueror; at this time it is mentioned by Domesday-book, that Leuric de Otringaberge was possessed of *fac* and *foc* for the lands he had in Aylesford; and this family of Otringaberge or Watringbury continued to enjoy landed property here, but of the Meduanas, who held the fee of the king: from thence it went to the Leybornes, of Leyborne-castle, one of whom had a grant from Edward II. for a market to be held in this manor on Wednesdays, a fair on the feast of St. John the Baptist, and free warren in his lands comprised in it. Upon the failure of heirs of this family the estate escheated to the crown, where it remained until Richard II. granted it to the abbey of St. Mary Grace, near the Tower in London, which he had just founded for monks of the order of Cister-tians; at the dissolution of which this manor was given by Henry VIII. to two private persons, from whom it has passed into various families until it came to the De la Hays: one of them conveyed the manor of Chart to the ancestor of Sir W. J. Twisden, Bart., who now holds it, and the manor of Watringbury to the Wilkinsons, who disposed of it to the Styles, and it is now the property of Sir Charles Style, Bart., with that of Fowkes.



The seat of the Styles, called Watringbury-place, is a handsome, modern brick building, erected upon the site of the ancient one, which had a moat, now filled up; its approach is peculiarly disagreeable. Some fine painted glass of the armorial bearings of the family and their alliances was destroyed in the great hail-storm, which we shall mention in a future page: the loss was, in some measure, supplied from Langley, in Beckenham; presented by the family who now enjoy that seat, once belonging to the other, and elder branch of the Styles. There are some good family portraits in Watringbury-place. The Styles are originally of Ipswich, in Suffolk: their great ancestor was a confidential minister to Henry VII., who employed him in several embassies, particularly to Naples. The portrait of this venerable person is still remaining, on board. His descendants were afterwards engaged in commerce, and were amongst the most considerable merchants in London, and their munificence to that city was very conspicuous.

Westbury manor was once the property of Peter Fitz Robert, who held it of Simon Fitz Adam, as the twentieth part of one knight's fee. Afterwards it came to a family who called themselves by its name, which becoming extinct without issue, left it to a female relation, after which it came by sale to the Brownes, who in queen Elizabeth's reign sold it to an ancestor of Sir W. J. Twisden, Bart.

Canons-court is another manor borrowing its name from the prior and canons of Leeds, who long possessed it, by the gift of Simon Fitz Adam, and the confirmation of Bartholomew his son. At the dissolution of the monastery of Leeds, it was granted to the new-erected dean and chapter of Rochester; Sir Charles Style, Bart., is the present lessee under them. A court still continues to be held for this manor.

Pelicans was long the seat of a family of the name of Codd, who were gentlemen; the last of them, James Codd, Esq., died in 1708, whilst sheriff of this county: as he had no child, and left no will, his real estates were divided amongst several persons who claimed affinity to him. Pelicans went to Thomas Kirby, gentleman, as heir: at his death it came into the possession of a person of that name, who disposed of it to Mr. Brattle of this parish: his son is the present owner. The Rev. — Gammon now resides in it.

Wardens was the seat of the Woods for a number of years, who, in the latter end of Charles II.'s reign, conveyed it to the Rev. William Burleston, rector of Warehorne, whose descendant disposed of it to Thomas Whitacre, of Trottescliffe,



cliffe, gentleman: he left it to his second son John Whitacre, of Barming, Esq.; upon whose death without issue, it came, by entail, to his nephew, Thomas Whitacre, of Trottescliffe, Esq., and he now owns, and lately resided in it.

This parish has been peculiarly unfortunate in having the plague several times in the beginning of the last century; for in each of the years from 1601 to 1614 inclusive, many died of it, which reduced the population very much; it was worst in the year 1607, and fell chiefly upon particular families, some of whom lost four, and one, the Hofmers, five persons by this dreadful malady. Several who died of it were buried in orchards or fields near their houses; a practice probably customary in such times of fatality, when contact was so dangerous: this may account for finding human bones near dwellings, and make us cease to suspect violence.

Watringbury is not accounted unhealthy, though it was so unfortunate during these years, and two instances of longevity will serve to evince it:—Thomas Boothe was buried here March 24, 1562, whose age was 112 years; consequently he must have lived in the reigns of nine sovereigns—Henry VI., Edward IV., Richard III., Henry VII., Henry VIII., Edward VI., Mary, and Elizabeth; and Henry Fiveash, aged 104 years, was buried July 24, 1677; he lived in the reigns of Elizabeth, James I., Charles I., during the Commonwealth, the protectorates of Oliver and Richard, and the reign of Charles II., and being eleven years old at the death of Boothe, he might have remembered him. To these two instances we might add a third, of a person who lately died, wanting but one year of an hundred.

This parish is within the diocese of Rochester, and deanry of Malling. Its church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, stands at the west end of the village; it is an ancient structure without any beauty, but very neat within. Much money was spent upon it in the year 1745, and again very lately. The fine painted glass which the great hail-storm left has lately been very injudiciously taken away. The portraits of Edward III. and Philippa his queen, and the history of the decollation of St. John the Baptist, were particularly admired. There are some very good monuments of the baronet Style family; they have with great care erected the sculptured marble to the memory of their departed relations, with an attention that does them great credit, and is a duty too much neglected by the wealthy. In the church-yard is an elegant one placed over Sir Oliver Style, who died in 1702, with a long Latin epitaph



epitaph, commemorative of this singular circumstance, that whilst at Smyrna, the room he was in was swallowed up by an earthquake; the catastrophe happened whilst at dinner with a set of friends, all of whom were ingulphed alive, amongst them the object of his tenderest regard. He was then a merchant, but by the death of his elder brethren he succeeded to the estate and title, which he retained but a few months: he never married.

The church of Rochester has the great tithes, and the patronage of this vicarage, which is a discharged living of the clear yearly value of 48*l.*; it has been twice augmented by queen Anne's bounty. The Rev. Robert Style, A. M. rector of Mereworth, is now the incumbent; he has greatly improved the vicarage-house, which the Rev. George Charlton, one of his predecessors, nearly rebuilt. The garden is laid out with great taste. The Rev. William Forster, D. D. has taken a lease of, and now resides in it.

#### N E T T L E S T E D.

THE parish of Nettledsted lies on the south side of Watringbury; its name is written Nedested in Domesday-book. The Medway washes the left side; and the road branching from that of Maidstone to Tunbridge, goes through this parish, which is long and narrow, occupying the rising hill, or winding along the valley. It is rich in pasture. The hops in this district are not so abundant, but are supplied, in some measure, by the fineness of the corn, which covers the higher parts of it. Nettledsted is more pleasing to the contemplative traveller, than to the gay and lively one; it is embosomed in spreading oaks and lofty elms, to which the habitation of man has within a century given place: there are now only three or four farm-houses, and not many more cottages.

Before the Norman conquest Godric held this place of Edward the Confessor; after that national misfortune it became a part of the rich possessions of Odo bishop of Bayeux, under whom were Haimo and Adam, as also Rayner or Rannulf de Columbels, who had some property here, which in king Edward's reign had been the estate of Alnod Cilt, who had held it of that monarch.

At the disgrace of Odo the manors of Nettledsted, Hylth, and Pimpe, fell to the illustrious family of Clare earls of Gloucester, under whom the Pimpes held them; they made Nettledsted their chief residence, and from thence it was also



denominated Pimpe's-court; they had two other seats, one in East Farleigh, the other at Allhallows, in the hundred of Hoo; that in East Farleigh also was called Pimpe's-court.

The Pimpes remained here in great credit for many generations, often employed in the first offices of the county. Reginald and John Pimpes, Esquires, were engaged in the scheme of the duke of Buckingham, under whom we apprehend they held, to displace Richard III. in favour of Henry earl of Richmond; for which they were deprived of their estates; but fortunately escaping with their lives, and surviving that sanguinary usurper, they obtained their lands again from the prince in whose cause they had lost them. Reginald dying without issue male, Ann his daughter and heir took this estate to Sir John Scott, of Scott's-hall, by virtue of an act of parliament; but from some cause not assigned, John Pimpe, Esq., his relation, obtained, and died possessed of them in 1495, with other estates in this neighbourhood; all of which he held under the dutehes of Buckingham. Winifred, his sole daughter and heir, married to Sir John Rainsford, who left her a widow and lunatic; at her death without issue, in the 18th year of queen Elizabeth's reign, they came again into the family of Scott, Sir Thomas Scott, of Scott's-hall, obtaining them as her heir.

We seize this opportunity of giving the life of one, whose excellent character deserves peculiar attention: if Britain had many such, she might bid defiance to adepts in philosophy, and to all the illuminés that disgrace humanity, and shock our nature.

Sir Thomas Scott's immediate progenitors were Sir Raynold, Sir John, Sir William, and Sir John Scotts, knights. His mother was a daughter of Sir William Kempe: his descent therefore was extremely good, though not noble. He came to his estate incumbered with a debt of two thousand marks; but by attention to all his concerns, and appropriating every thing to its proper use, he was enabled to live with the greatest respectability, and perform the most important services to the queen his sovereign. He was made deputy lieutenant, and often a knight of the shire. In the county and in parliament he was ever attentive to his duty. As a magistrate he was wise, just, and indefatigable; he was "a father of Romney marsh;" the haven of Dover was contrived by him, and executed under his eye; nothing could exceed his assiduity in having it brought to perfection. His skill in whatever related to war was so great, especially horsemanship, that he was fixed upon to govern the camp of Narbonne, where he acquired great commendation.



tion. He was so active in the public service, that when the Spanish armada threatened our coasts, and the privy-council sent to him to raise what forces he could collect, he sent four thousand armed men, who reached Dover the next day. His hospitality was as extraordinary: he kept house at Scott's-hall thirty-eight years without intermission; he generally had a hundred persons in his house; but the resort of those who came from affection, duty, or business, was incredible. His Christmas's were beyond belief splendid; and yet notwithstanding his expenses at home, and still more those on behalf of the state, in the latter of which he was ever lavish, he increased his stock, his "stuff," his plate, was also a great builder, and at his death he did not owe five pounds. As he had no ambition or vain glory, the sycophant and flatterer never intruded themselves, where they were sure to meet reproof and contempt. He was religious without any pretence to extraordinary piety, for which reason he neither loved, nor was commended by the puritans. He could write well, as his essay upon the management of horses evinces: he said little, but when called upon he was eloquent as well as wise; and such was his hatred to litigation, that he never had any law-suit. Possessing such an exalted, and at the same time so amiable a character, it is no wonder that he had not a known enemy in England. As a testimony of the public esteem, the people of Ashford requested permission to bury him at their own expense, conditionally, that they might be permitted to retain his respected remains amongst them; but that being declined, he was interred in Braborne-church amongst his ancestors. He married thrice; his wives were of the families of Baker, Heyman, and Beere; he had no issue by the two last: by the first, who was sister to lady Buckhurst, he had seventeen children. His widow resided at Dartford, where she was born, and with the same hospitality she had seen at Scott's-hall. His eldest son inherited that seat; his second son, Sir John Scott, knighted in the field, in his life-time, possessed Pimpe's-court, in Nettlested; his third son was slain in his sovereign's service: all his other children were virtuous. One of his daughters married a knight of great reputation, and the others "matched to gentlemen of very good worship and credit." Such was Sir Thomas Scott, who died December 30, 1594, aged fifty-nine years: nor can any one be surpris'd to learn that he was "as much missed and moaned as any" that died in Kent these hundred years." His justly acquired reputation was the reward of his fidelity to God, his sovereign, and his country. He was enabled to support his munificence in private life from superintending his affairs, and having



no waste made in his house. It was remarked, that “ at his table he would have “ neither want nor superfluity.”—May God raise up such characters amongst us to stem that inundation of impiety, disloyalty, and turbulence which threatens us with ruin ; that debauchery, idleness, and extravagance, which render us at once ridiculous and contemptible.

Sir John Scott, second son of Sir Thomas, settled at this place, which he is supposed greatly to have improved ; however, the additions appear to be chiefly made by his father, because he was “ a great builder,” and on a stone portal in the west front is the date 1587. This ancient residence was a large stone edifice, with fine Gothic windows ; the grand entrance to it from the river is now, or lately was, standing ; its gardens and fish-ponds remain. The small ruin of this once pleasing mansion serves for a cottager’s dwelling, and as an hoast for drying hops : such are the vicissitudes of places, as well as of families. There is a neat modern farmhouse, in which the occupier of the manerial farm lives : it is built between the old seat and the church.

This knight had two wives, whose monuments are in the church ; but leaving no issue by either of them, this estate came to his brother Edward Scott, of Scott’s-hall, Esq., whose descendants disposed of the manors of Nettlested, Hilthe, and Pimpe, with the mansion and advowson of the church, by virtue of an act of parliament, to Sir Philip Boteler, of Teston, Bart., whose son Sir Philip devising one moiety of his estates to Mrs. Bouverie, and the other to Elizabeth viscountess dowager Folkestone, and William earl of Radnor, the whole of the property in Nettlested fell to Mrs. Bouverie in the division.

Lomewood or Layfers, also heretofore called Bromes, is a manor anciently possessed by the Clares earls of Gloucester, one of whom gave it to the priory of black canons, in Tunbridge. Cardinal Wolsey obtained it to endow his new-erected colleges ; but upon his disgrace, Henry VIII. granted it, by the name of Lomewood alias Le Bromys, to Sir Edward Nevil, third son of George lord Abergavenny, who gave it to George Roydon, Esq., partly in consideration of a sum of money, and partly as a marriage portion with Catharine his daughter : in this conveyance it is called cardinal’s lands of Bromes, in Lomewood. The issue of this marriage was five daughters and coheirs ; Elizabeth, the second of whom, took this manor to the ancestor of Sir W. J. Twisden, Bart.

This parish is in the diocese of Rochester, and deanry of Malling. Its church



is dedicated to St. Mary, and being upon the hill that fronts one part of the valley, makes a very pleasing object. It is an elegant, small, Gothic building, but unfortunately its spire is low; within it is finely adorned with painted glafs, and though much of it was broken by the great hail-storm, yet in what remains besides the arms of the Pimpes and their alliances, are many curious compartments upon other subjects, religious or historical: some of these are very finely executed. The sun or star, and the open fetter-lock, two of Edward IV.'s favourite badges or cognizances, frequently appear, which ascertain the time when they were put there, and prove that the Pimpes were Yorkists, though they united to depose Richard III.; but his crimes made him justly odious to all, and the friends of the white rose supposed that by raising the daughter of their favourite sovereign Edward IV. to the crown jointly with Henry earl of Richmond, they were not deserting that interest, little suspecting that Henry would affect the conqueror, or plead any hereditary right. The church and chancel have, within the last year or two, been repaired and beautified at the expense of the rector and his parishioners, in a manner that does them the greatest credit. The rectory in the king's books is valued at 12*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.*; in which sum is included the chapelry of Barmingjett, to which the rector of Nettled is instituted, though the tithes are not paid to him. The patronage has ever been an appendant upon the manor. The present incumbent is the Rev. James Kennedy, also vicar of Teston. The parsonage-house, long deserted, is in part ruinous, though much improved by Mr. Kennedy; the out-buildings are very large, and indeed cumbrous: the glebe is forty acres, lying within a ring fence; it is finely situated for cultivation. Nettled is also one of those parishes which anciently was obliged to contribute towards the fifth arch of Rochester bridge.

### T E S T O N.

THE parish of Teston is east of Watringbury, to which it adjoins; Domesday-book calls it Testan; the Textus Roffensis, Terstana: it is now invariably called Teefon. It is a borough, with a court leet belonging to it, and elects a boroughholder, being exempt from the jurisdiction of the court leet of Twyford hundred; yet here may be chosen a constable for that hundred.

The parish is very small, and gently rises from the banks of the Medway, the seat of Mrs. Bouverie lying nearly half way up; it is in the highest state of cultivation,



vation, and both by nature and art is the most beautiful spot in the county for its size. The great road from Maidstone to Tunbridge lies through it, and the roads to Ofham and Town Malling lead from it to the right, and another to Cocks-heath, Yalding, and the Weald, goes to the left. There is a fine bridge over the Medway, which, though of seven arches, is often overflowed; but the wonder ceases when we learn that the Medway sometimes rises eighteen feet above its usual height in twenty-four hours, and will fall as suddenly.

By Domeſday-book we learn, that a Saxon named Edward held Teſton under the Confeſſor, and Adeold under Odo: Robert farmed it at that time as tenant to Adeold. The Crevequers obtained it afterwards from the Conqueror, upon the biſhop of Bayeux's deprivation; they held it *in capite*, as a member of the manor of Chatham, which was held of the ſovereign *in capite*, by barony: the Crevequers joining the rebel barons, it came by attainure to the crown, where it remained until Eleanor, the queen of Edward I., received it from her royal confort: ſhe exchanged it with the priory of Chriſt-church, in Canterbury, for the port of Sandwich; Edward confirmed the grant, and king Edward his ſon gave the prior free warren. The poſſeſſion remained in that religious houſe until its diſſolution by Henry VIII.

That monarch gave Teſton to Sir Thomas Wyat to hold *in capite*: his ſon Sir Thomas loſt it and his life for his rebellion againſt queen Mary, who gave it to her attorney-general, Sir John Baker, whoſe deſcendants ſold it, during the Uſurpation, to Mr. Jaſper Cleyton, of London; he, in the reign of Charles II., diſpoſed of it to Sir Oliver Boteler, of Barham-court, in this pariſh, Bart. In the diviſion of the eſtates of his grandſon Sir Philip Boteler, this fell to the ſhare of Mrs. Bouverie, who now reſides here, diſſuſing happineſs to all around by her very extenſive liberality, and whoſe private and unknown charities far exceed, it is believed, thoſe which cannot be concealed.

It would be inexcusable to paſs over this moſt delightful feat without being more particular. It had formerly the name of Berham or Barham-court, from its having long been the reſidence of a family of that name, the heiſeſs of which carried it to the Botelers in the reign of James I., when they came hither from Sharnbrooke, in the county of Bedford. It was here that the rebels in Charles I.'s reign wreaked their vengeance upon that virtuous character Sir William Boteler, by plundering his houſe and deſtroying his property, though they had for his ſuppoſed  
crime



crime made him give 20,000*l.* bail, when they released him from the Fleet prison:— the reader will feel a suitable indignation when he learns that the whole of Sir William's "delinquency" was having, in 1642, joined with many of the neighbouring gentry to petition the house of commons to listen to a peace with their sovereign, which was delivered by captain Richard Lovelace. Dr. Bruno Ryves has given the whole of this shocking tale, which was closed by this loyal baronet's taking up arms in behalf of his sovereign, and dying at the skirmish of Cropredy-bridge, in 1644, displaying as much courage there as he had firmness in the senate. His descendants constantly resided here, and the last Sir Philip Boteler expended great sums in improving the seat, the name of which he changed from Barham-court to that of Teston-house, which it still retains: he also procured leave to take the turnpike-road lower down, so as to leave a lawn from the house. He died here in the year 1772, very deservedly esteemed and lamented. Mrs. Bouverie has likewise much improved and enlarged this her favourite seat, and laid out the grounds with uncommon taste. The house is a large stuccoed edifice; an elegant plainness both without and within is conspicuously visible: the gardens are numerous and extensive: the plantations around it in every direction are equally judicious, and all unite profit with beauty. The farm, as well as the park, under the superintendence of Sir Charles Middleton, Bart., the friend of Mrs. Bouverie, are such as exceed any thing to be seen not only in this, but in any other part of the kingdom. It ought to be the model for every gentleman who has a plantation farm. A greater contrast cannot be, than these and the adjoining lands.

Teston is in the diocese of Rochester, and deanry of Malling. Its church, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, was enlarged by the last Sir Philip Boteler, before which it was the smallest parochial one in England. The body of the old edifice looks like a second chancel; with this addition, it is but a very small room, and scarce large enough to contain the inhabitants, so greatly is population increased under two such benevolent owners of the estate, as the late and present possessor. It is singular, that though so many of the Botelers are buried within the church, there is not so much as one sepulchral inscription to their memories, nor indeed to that of any other. We mention this, because Mr. Hafted, though so laborious a writer, has been misled in this instance.

The Crevequer family gave the great tithes of this parish to the priory of Leeds in the year 1119, with sixteen acres of land; but in Stephen's reign the prior and  
canons



canons were invested with the parsonage, and the latter were afterwards canonically inducted to it: the priory therefore endowed the vicarage with the great tithes, reserving only a pension of twenty shillings; which pension, at the dissolution of that religious house, coming into the royal hands, Henry VIII. gave it to his newly-erected dean and chapter of Rochester, who still receive it. The crown however retained the parsonage and advowson of the vicarage, until Charles I. granted them to Sir William Boteler, and they have ever since gone with the manor. This preferment is a discharged living, and is valued in the king's books at 47 $\frac{1}{2}$ l. It being a vicarage endowed, the vicar receives the great as well as the small tithes. The present vicar is the Rev. James Kennedy, also rector of Nettlested, as have been the four preceding incumbents, who have all resided at Teston; the last was that worthy benevolent man, the Rev. James Ramsey, at whose house died the pious Mr. La Trobe.

### W E S T F A R L E I G H.

WE now cross the Medway to the pleasant parish of West Farleigh; called Forlega in Domesday-book, and Fearnlega in the Textus Roffensis; we think its name is derived from fare, a passage, and lega, place.

The borough of West Farleigh choose a borsholder at their own court leet, and owe no service to that of the hundred, yet a constable may be elected from that hundred out of this borough. One part of the parish is holden of Newington manor, near Sittingborne, in free socage tenure, but at different yearly rents.

There are few districts more pleasingly situated than this of West Farleigh: it rises on the south side gradually from the Medway; the houses prettily detached, with a verdant sweep down to the river, communicating with the opposite bank by three bridges, St. Helens, Barnjett, and Teston. It is rich in plantations of every kind, and has for several centuries been the residence of gentry.

The manor of West Farleigh underwent the same fate as that of Teston, until the Baker family disposed of it to Mr. Robert Newton, of London, grocer, who alienated it to Augustine Hodges, gent.: he disposed of it in the reign of Charles II. to John Amhurst, of East Farleigh lodge, Esq., who devised it to his brother, Nicholas Amhurst, of West Barming, gent.; whence it came to Stephen Amhurst, gent., who built here a brick house for his own residence,

near



near the lodge, which, with the estate, he left to a younger son, Stephen Amhurst, gent., who now owns it.

Smith's-hall is an ancient seat, long possessed by the De Brewers, so called from Brewer's-place, in Mereworth, from whence they came: branches of them were settled at Boxley, Ditton, and Malling. The last possessor of this name at Smith's-hall, was John Brewer, Esq., who, dying in 1724, left this seat and estate to Jane, his only child: she having no issue by either of her husbands, John Carney, Esq., or John Shrimpton, Esq., devised them to her relation, the Rev. John Davis, D. D. rector of Hamsey, in Suffex, whose son, Sir John Davis, Knt., sold this estate, in 1774, to William-Philip Perrin, Esq. The seat is red brick, too long and low to be handsome; but there is an intention of altering, or rebuilding it. Here are some portraits of the Brewer family stipulated to be left hanging in the principal rooms; a vanity that neither the privacy of that family, which never gave any public characters, nor the execution of the paintings, could justify.

Totesham-hall, generally called Tutsham, gave name to the De Toteshams, who owned this seat and manor, until in the reign of Henry VIII. Anthony Totesham, Esq., disposed of this estate, with Henhurst, to Thomas Chapman, gent., one of the grooms of that monarch's chamber. It went by purchase to the Colepeper family, who disposed of it soon after to John Laurence, Esq., captain of Tilbury fort. From this family it went by sale to Augustine Skynner, Esq., whose son Augustine Skynner, Esq., was one of the commissioners appointed to sit in that nefarious tribunal called the high court of justice, erected to try their sovereign Charles I.; Mr. Skynner however had virtue sufficient to decline that infamous business. We find by Mr. Noble's Lives of the Regicides, &c. that this gentleman survived the Restoration, and died in the Fleet prison. His misfortunes were chiefly owing to his having, with borrowed money, purchased the manor of Trotisccliffe, and some other episcopal estates belonging to the see of Rochester, which he lost at the restoration of Charles II. After his death in 1672 his heirs sold Totesham-hall to the Goulstons, who made it their residence; one of them sold it to Sir Philip Boteler, Bart., at the division of whose estates this was allotted to Mrs. Bouverie; and the seat, after having been a lodging-house, was at length taken down, to the irreparable loss of the neighbouring scenery: it was, from its fine situation upon the banks of the Medway, the great plenty of water bursting forth in many parts, with the rapid Ewell stream, a spot which was every way appropriated for



the residence of a gentleman who could direct its various beauties to form a complete whole ; but now an oil-mill has just been erected upon a beautiful part of this estate of Totesham.

This parish is in the diocese of Rochester, and deanry of Malling. Its church, dedicated to All Saints, is a small edifice : the foundation of an older structure is visible, when graves are made at the west end, so that the present church is either not so large, or is built more to the east than the original one ; it is very neat within, and adorned with elegant marble monuments : there are some beautiful yew trees in the cemetery. The rectory was given to Leeds priory by Robert de Crevequer, and at the dissolution of the monastic institutions to the dean and chapter of Rochester, which present to the vicarage : it is valued in the king's books at 6*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.* The Rev. Thomas-Weeks Dalby, A. M., also vicar of Chippenham, in Wiltshire, and chaplain to the bishop of Exeter, is the present incumbent. He has greatly improved the vicarage-house and lands : it is a very charming spot ; from the garden is seen Mereworth-castle and spire, the church of Watringbury, the village of Teston, with the church ; and Mrs. Bouverie's grand mansion lies exactly opposite to it, producing a scenery seldom equalled.

The cyclamen Europæum, fowbread, grows wild in the woods of West Farleigh, though some of our greatest naturalists thought it was not to be found in Britain : the aristolochia clematalis, climbing birthwort, is also seen in the woods between here and Maidstone.

## H U N T O N.

TO the south of the last parish lies Hunton, anciently Huntington, a small part of which being the old demesne of Aylesford is accounted in the hundred of Larkfield, and another small part in that of Maidstone ; the borough of Hunton claims the remainder, which is vested with the same powers relative to its court leet, as that of the last parish. This is within the Weald ; the scenery is fine, but too crowded with timber in the hedge-rows to be so advantageous to the farmer as those parishes last mentioned. The plantations of hops are large, but the greatest part is pasture and tillage. It is too wet in winter, and too much scorched by the summer's sun to be so agreeable as that part of Kent which lies above the hill : the traveller experiences the badness of the roads in winter, and is annoyed by



by an infinity of flies from the spreading foliage which overhangs them in the hot months. A stream runs through this parish, strengthening as it flows by the union of smaller ones coming from the higher grounds, which passing on, joins the Medway in Yalding.

Huntington, or Hunton manor, belonged anciently to the monastery of Christchurch, in Canterbury; it then went to the primates of Canterbury, who granted it to the Lenhams to hold of them by knight's service. This family also obtained the manor of Benstede, at the Conquest written Benedestede, and which had belonged to Odo bishop of Bayeux, and the Crevequers, who are supposed to have afterwards taken the name of Benstede. These manors were long united in the same families: by a female they passed to the Gyffords, and by them were sold to the Clintons, who owned them until Edward lord Clinton disposed of them to Sir Thomas Wyat; he lost them by attainure. Queen Mary gave them to Sir John Baker, her attorney-general, to hold *in capite* by knight's service: his descendant disposed of them in the reign of Charles II. to Mr. Clarke, of Boughton, who devised Hunton manor to Mr. Thomas Turner for life, remainder to his own brother, who purchasing the reversion, gave them by will to his nephew Thomas Turner, gent., who now owns and resides in the seat, which is near the church. He holds a court baron for this manor.

Benstede or Bensteddle, the name it has now acquired, was bought by the Bartholomews of Mr. Clarke, and by them left to Sir William Geary, Bart., who also enjoys other estates in Hunton: the lodge or manor-house is become, by length of time, a very small, mean building; but the marks of its former greatness remain in its moat and some scattered relics of foundations, and evince that it was a suitable habitation for even the Clintons, one of whose monuments still remains in the south chancel.

Burston, anciently Buston, Buricestune, or Burregicestune, is a manor which gave name to a family, who long enjoyed it; one of them, leasing it for a term to Mr. Head, an opulent tradesman and alderman of London, he very much enlarged and improved it. In queen Elizabeth's reign it was disposed of by the Burstons, to the Fane family. Sir Thomas Fane the purchaser resided here; became lieutenant of Dover-castle, and dying without issue in 1606, devised this seat to his nephew Sir George Fane, the second son of Sir Thomas Fane, by Mary baroness Le Despenser, and brother of Francis earl of Westmorland. Colonel Thomas Fane,



his eldest son, succeeded him; a gentleman of great abilities, and still greater integrity, having been loyal to his prince, and faithful to his country, in the worst of times, vigorously asserting the cause of religion and the laws; thrice unanimously returned a member of parliament for Maidstone, against the restless designs of popery and arbitrary power, charitable to his poor neighbours, and no less bountiful and liberal to his servants, a remarkable instance of which he gave at his death: this valuable man died September 5, 1692, in the sixty-sixth year of his age, and was buried in Hunton church, where, against the south wall, is his monument, from whence is copied what we believe to have been his true character; his bust in white marble upon it is a good piece of sculpture. He left this estate to Mildmay Fane, Esq., the seventh and youngest son of Vere earl of Westmorland, who was not more than two years of age, being desirous that this estate should never go with the title of Westmorland; but, like all other such distant projects, his intentions were defeated by this gentleman, who resided at Mereworth-castle, dying in 1715 unmarried, when the whole of his landed property became possessed successively by Thomas and John his brothers, earls of Westmorland; by the will of the latter this estate is now vested in lord Le Despenser.

This seat commands an extensive view over the Weald; the right wing is of brick, ornamented with stone, the architecture of the sixteenth century; the other parts are more modern. The park, enclosed about the time of James I., now cultivated land, with the seat, is occupied by Mr. Skudder, a respectable yeoman: the mansion is falling fast to ruin.

Jennings is a handsome house built near the parsonage, by Sir Walter Roberts, of Glassenbury, in this county, Bart., upon the site of an ancient one, which, with some land also purchased of a person of the name of Snatt, he left in 1745 to his two daughters, his coheirs, one of whom dying in France, young and unmarried, the other became possessed of this seat, which procured her the splendid misery of being wife to George duke of St. Alban's, so well remembered for his vices and weakness; he gained her affections whilst on a visit at Sir Philip Boteler's, at Teston-house, by flattering her that she should have the most superb equipage of any lady in England; forgetting the promise she had made to Sir Philip and lady Boteler not to listen to his addresses, they having humanely cautioned her against his attack by showing the profligacy of his character. Miss Roberts became a dutchess, and the most unhappy of women—she soon gave place to the lowest female in her house.

Some



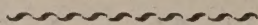
Some little time before her death, a gentleman hearing her grace mention her sister, observed that her dying young was a fortunate event ; she replied, “ By no means, “ Sir : if she had lived I should not have been an object to gratify avarice, nor a dupe “ to grandeur.”—She chose Jennings for the place of her retirement, and here her sorrows were closed by death in 1778, without having been a mother. Happily part of her property was at her own disposal ; much of it she devised to a gentleman of her own name, distantly related to her, who resided in Ireland ; Jennings she left to her friend Miss Davies, who, after the duke’s death in great distress upon the continent, disposed of it to the lady dowager Twisden, who resides here, dispensing her very ample fortune in acts of benevolence.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary ; it is in the diocese of Rochester, a peculiar of the metropolitan’s, and consequently in the deanry of Shoreham. The rectory is valued in the king’s books at 16*l.* 13*s.* 1½*d.* : the patron is the primate of Canterbury ; but the present rector, the Right Hon. and Rev. lord George Murray, third son of his grace John late duke of Athol, was presented by the crown upon the promotion of the former incumbent, the Right Rev. Dr. Beilby Porteus, bishop of Chester, to the see of London ; both of whom have greatly improved the rectorial residence. The above pious and learned prelate spent his summers at Hunton, diffusing good to all who wanted his fostering care, and countenancing the neighbouring clergy, whom he entertained with that urbanity, gentleness, and condescension that so conspicuously mark his character. It is singular that there are now living two clergymen, who have been rectors of this parish—Dr. Fowel, who resigned it for Bishopsborne ; and the bishop of London. Hunton has been long famed for the peculiar respectability of her clergy. Amongst these were the learned and unfortunate Theophilus Higgons, A. M., who succeeded Anthony Pawle or Paule ; Mr. Higgons had been perverted to popery, but was reclaimed by Dr. Morton, then dean of Winchester : he was ejected by the fanatics, and died before the Restoration, when it was given to Mr. George Latham, ejected by the Bartholomew act.

The church is a very large, ancient building ; in it are many monuments of the Clintons, Fanes, Hatleys, and others : Philipott mentions the effigies of two of the lords Clintons in one of the windows, but there are now no remains of them. In the church-yard are many tombs of the Foots, Snatts, and Beeftons. In the church are two grave-stones, upon each of which is an heart inscribed I. H. C.



We shall quit this parish with observing, that in 1683 was found, in enlarging a pond, a stratum of shells called conchites, though so far from any river; and on Midsummer-day 1746, happened the greatest storm of thunder and lightning, wind and rain, that had ever been known, and which was only exceeded by that which fell in the year 1763.



### Y A L D I N G.

THE parish of Yalding lies in the Weald, and is to the north-west of Hunton; it was written Ealding in former times, a name significant of an ancient meadow or low ground. It is chiefly in the hundred of Twyford, but the borough of Rugmerhill is part of the old demesne of Aylesford. One part of the parish holds of the manor, and is in the borough of West Farleigh: the other is held of the manor, and is in the borough of Hunton: each has its own borsholder, chosen at their respective leets, and are exempt from the jurisdiction of the hundred of Twyford, though its constable may be chosen out of either of these boroughs.

It is a long narrow district, much intersected by the different branches of the Medway, one of which is called the Twist. Upon two of the larger streams of the river is situated the town of Yalding, which is a long dreary place: it has a narrow stone bridge over it, and there are two others also in the parish called Twyford and Brant bridges; besides the main road passing from Teston bridge through West Farleigh towards the southern part of the county, there are others of less consequence leading to the east and west. As the river is made navigable to this place, barges take in timber, great guns, and bullets, for Chatham and Sheerness docks, London, and other places, and return with such different articles as there are demands for: much coke is made, and sent from this place for drying hops.

Yalding is one of those parishes profitable to the farmer, but not pleasant as a residence: in the north parts it is rich in plantations, in arable and pasture lands, but cold and wet, and to the southward becomes poor and sterile. Though a most populous parish, yet it is allowed to be unwholesome, and suffered very greatly from the plague, which broke out in the years 1590, 1603, 1604, 1608, 1609, and 1666: most died in 1609; it chiefly fell upon particular families, ninety-two persons dying of it in that year. It appears that the plague was first brought to Yalding by children sent from London to be nursed, and though they must be sensible  
of



of the danger, it did not prevent their repeatedly suffering from the same cause. It was an article of profit to so many, that they would not discontinue the practice, though at the risk of their own and their neighbours' safety : many of these unfortunate children were buried here. It is extraordinary that so damp and unhealthy a place should have been fixed upon for the reception of them, when so many every way eligible were near.

The manor of Yalding was given to Richard de Tonebridge, whose descendants, the Clares, took it to Hugh de Audeley, jun., who held it of Edward II. *in capite*, and obtained a grant of a weekly market, and a yearly fair to continue three days, on the vigil of the feast of St. Peter and St. Paul, and the day subsequent to it. The fairs are now held on Whit-Monday and October 15th. Margaret his only daughter took this manor to the Staffords, on whose attainure, Henry VIII. gave it to Henry duke of Somerset, who alienated it to the barons Abergavenny ; after several descents it went to Isaac, and he conveyed it to Freers, who sold it to the Brewers of Smith's-hall ; the heiress of that family devised it to Dr. Davis, whose son, Sir John Davis, disposed of it to W. P. Perrin, Esq., and he exchanged it for some lands lying near his seat of Smith's-hall, with Mrs. Bouverie, in whom the manor now vests, and she holds a court baron for it.

Woodfolde manor is about a mile to the south-east of Brant bridge. It was a joint property in the reign of Edward II. ; at length it settled in the Lodnefords, who passed it away to the Burtons, and they to the Fanes in Henry VIII.'s reign, and with their other estates in the neighbourhood, has settled in the person of lord Le Despenser.

Lodingford or Bermondsey is half a mile to the east of the last manor : the Bermondseys, who gave it the latter name, held it under the Clares earls of Gloucester : in the reign of Henry VIII. it was owned by the Woods, who sold it to the Fanes ; they to the Austens, and Mrs. Austen devising the manor to Mary, the daughter of Mr. Piggott, of Cambridge, she took it in marriage to the Rev. William Forster, D. D. who holds a court manor.

Jennings-court manor is subordinate to that of Pippingheath ; it lies in this and the parishes of Nettlested and West Barming. It has gone through the families of Huntingdon, Knot, and Atwood, which last held it partly *in capite*, and partly under the dukes of Buckingham ; it has long been granted to Brazen Nose college,



college, in Oxford; Sir John-Gregory Shaw, Bart., is the present lessee. A court baron continues to be held for this manor.

Bokingfold manor is of very great extent, spreading over part of the parishes of Brenchley, Horsmonden, Marden, and Goudhurst: it had a free chapel, and a park or forest; only one house belonging to it stands in Yalding, which is accounted the mansion or lodge, though not on the site of the more ancient one. The Crevequers held it of the manor of Chatham, until it was forfeited by them for treason in the barons' wars, when it rested in the crown, until granted, with its chapel, to Bartholomew de Badlesmere, at the yearly rent of 25*l.* payable in the exchequer; but there arising some demur about the right to the advowson, which the prior of Leeds claimed by a gift from Hamo de Crevequer; it occasioned an inspection into the right, when the king thought his claim so undoubted, that, upon an exchange six years afterwards between him and this gentleman of some other estates, another grant and confirmation was given of this manor and chapel, to hold by socage. The tenure was singular; he was to pay a pair of clove gilliflowers, by the hand of the sheriff; but though he obtained for these and other estates free warren, with various liberties and privileges, yet departing from his allegiance and joining the enemies of his beneficent sovereign, like many of the conspirators, he expiated his guilt upon the scaffold.

This seat had the honour to receive Edward II. when he left London, with an intention of visiting France, to perform his homage for the duchy of Aquitaine. That wise, faithful, and munificent prelate Hamo Noble bishop of Rochester, and the king's confessor, sent both wine and grapes from his vineyard at Halling for his royal master's table. The king whilst here discovering that many persons had illegally hunted in this forest or park of Bokingfold, commanded that the culprits should be prosecuted.

The manor and advowson of the chapel were soon after granted by this monarch to Thomas de Camvill, to hold by the same tenure; upon his death Edward III. confirmed them to Giles, son of Bartholomew de Badlesmere, whose four sisters became his coheirs; upon the division of his landed property, these estates were separated into two parts: the manor and fifty acres of wood went to Maud the eldest of the sisters, who was married to John de Vere earl of Oxford; and another fifty acres went to Margaret the youngest sister, wife of John de Tibetote.

Upon the death of John earl of Oxford, it was enjoyed by his widow during

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the lifetime of Thomas earl of Oxford their son, and also during that of his grandson, Robert earl of Oxford, created duke of Ireland, the unworthy and unfortunate favourite of his still more unfortunate sovereign Richard II.: after the violent death of this imprudent nobleman, the remainder was given to Thomas of Woodstock duke of Gloucester, the king's uncle, to hold *in capite*. This great prince soon after conveyed them to the college he had founded at Pleshy in Essex, and which the master and priests obtained at the death of the countess dowager of Oxford, and held both the manor and advowson until the dissolution of the college, when Henry VIII. gave it to Sir John Gates, a gentleman of his privy chamber, who, in the reign of Edward VI., obtained an act to disgavel his lands. This sacrilegious plunderer of churches, and destroyer of monuments, fell beneath the axe for joining the ambitious Dudley duke of Northumberland, in his attempt to place lady Jane Grey upon the throne.

Queen Mary in the same year gave Bockingfield, with its appendages, except the advowson of the chapel, to Susan Tong alias Clarenceux, first lady of her bed-chamber, widow of Thomas Tong, Esq., Clarenceux king at arms, to hold *in capite*; she, in the third year of that reign, disposed of it to Thomas Colepeper, of Bedgbury, Esq. His son, Alexander Colepeper, Esq., alienated that part of this manor which was in Goudhurst to Sharpeigh; and the other part which was in Yalding, Brenchley, Marden, and Horsmonden, to Roger Revell. The chapel remained in the crown until queen Elizabeth gave it to Richard Tilden, of Brenchley.

Revell's part of the manor was conveyed by him to Benedict Barnham, citizen and alderman of London, upon whose death, in 1598, it came in the division of his estates to Bridget his youngest daughter, married to Sir William Soame, who sold it, in the commencement of the reign of Charles I., to Mr. George Browne, of Buckland, in Surry, a relation of Mr. Tilden, who had obtained the chapel; he, in 1685, alienated it to his brother Ambrose Browne, of Buckland, Esq.; he disposed of it to Mr. William Woodgate, of Chidingstone, whose great grandson, William Woodgate, of Somer-hill, in Tunbridge, Esq., now possesses it.

The court-lodge of the manor of Yalding, with its demesne lands, has been for a number of years separated from the manor itself; and it is now the property of William Plumer, Esq., who resides in the county of Hertford, for which he is one of the representatives in parliament.



Henhurst is an estate that gave name to a family so early as the reign of Edward II., at which time Gilbert de Henhurst held half a knight's fee in Henhurst of the Clares earls of Gloucester; and Richard Totesham, Henry Gervas, and John de Sandherst, paid respective aid for it in the next reign. The Toteshams, of Totesham-hall, in West Farleigh, obtained the whole, and afterwards it followed the descent of that seat, going from them to the Chapmans, Colepepers, Laurences, Skinners, Gouldstones, Botelers, and is now held by Mrs. Bouverie, of Teston.

Kenwards is another estate which the late Sir Philip Boteler, Bart., purchased of Sir Thomas Twisden, of Bradburn, Bart., and dame Ann his wife, and came, after Sir Philip's death in the same manner as Teston, and the other estates near it, to Mrs. Bouverie.

Trendherst-denn is a district which, though in Yalding, is within the manor of Gillingham, near Rochester.

Yalding is in Rochester diocese, and the deanry of Malling. Its church is a large Gothic structure, consisting of a nave and two aisles, a large chancel, and at the west end a square tower. The great tithes with the advowson belonged to the priory of Tunbridge, until its suppression by parliament, to endow cardinal Wolsey's college at Oxford: after his fall they remained in the crown until queen Elizabeth granted them upon a lease, and James I. in perpetuity. It is now the property of several families, but not in equal shares. The rectory pays a yearly fee-farm rent of 30*l.* to the crown. It is valued in the king's books at 20*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.* The rectory has one, and the vicarage another manor. The vicar is the Rev. Richard Warde: the Rev. John Warde the late incumbent, son of Mr. Thomas Warde, whose turn it was to present, built a very handsome commodious vicarage-house.

In the year 1757 was taken, in that part of the Medway which runs through this parish, an eel whose length was five feet nine inches, and eighteen in girth, weighing more than forty pounds: the Medway is remarkable for eels; they are numerous and often very large, but inferior in flavour to those in many other rivers.

#### HUNDRED OF MAIDSTONE.

**T**HIS hundred once included the town and parish of Maidstone; but as they are now a separate jurisdiction, they will be particularized in a future page. The parishes now comprised in the hundred are Boxley, Detling, Loofe, Linton, East Farleigh,



Farleigh, East Barming and West Barming, Barmingjet or Barnjett, and a part of those of Hunton, Bersted, Marden, and Staplehurst: the four last named are out of the distance prescribed by this work. The hundred owned the primate of Canterbury for its lord in the thirteenth century; the present one is lord Romney.

Previous to the description of the town of Maidstone, it will be pleasing to survey the beautiful scenery and rich productions of that parish and its environs. Maidstone stands in a fruitful vale: the rag-stone hill to the south, and the barren chalk hill on the north, forming a striking contrast; the one most highly cultivated, the other with only small detached pieces yielding any thing except a thin herbage, which even sheep do not graze: the sameness of it is broken here and there by chalk-pits and brush-wood.

The river Medway divides the valley; it is of unequal depth, and muddy; but at this place of a good breadth, and receives the tides: the winding course is charming to the traveller, who skirts its beautiful banks, which are constantly varied in their productions; rich meadows, hanging woods planted upon land, once excavated for stone, a few quarries still open, with some orchards of apples or cherries, and sometimes plantations of hops down to the water's edge: farther from Maidstone towards Tunbridge, fine spreading timber, particularly the pride of Britain, oaks of the largest size, adorn the landscape. The extremity of the banks is beautifully fringed by a vast variety of low shrubs and flowers of the liveliest hue. The tanacetum, or garden tansey, is in great profusion in Maidstone, Barming, and Teston: the lysamachia, or willow weed, is seen a little higher up in the last of these parishes; and the creeping periwinkle, with almost perpetual flowers, at the foot of the trees: the greater mullein presents its singularly elegant and stately appearance; it generally loves a higher and drier situation. The bryony fantastically festoons the hanging woods, and enlivens them with its scarlet berries; and as the peripatetic wanders along, he is often arrested by the bubbling spring or the gurgling rill that runs beneath his feet, and falls into the river. He will often see, and oftener hear the pheasant, handsomest of our native birds—the brilliant woodpecker, the kingfisher, whose painted plumage is still more exquisitely fine; the blackbird, thrush, and nightingale warble forth “their wood-notes wild” in the utmost profusion. If the traveller looks to the water, other pleasures await him; the leaping fish leaving behind the mazy, circling waves; diverging from its centre, the dashing water falling over its tumbling bays; barges sailing or hauled along, loaded with timber,



hops, stone, chalk, lime, coal, coke, bricks, fine white sand, fuller's earth, or bales of party-coloured rags ; and frequently the painted boat richly bedecked without, but graced within with the richest treasures of Britain, our fair countrywomen, often such that " beggar all description."

We shall now notice the agricultural productions of this district—and first in consequence wheat, and lately cone or bearded, which we think is most prolific, and makes the sweetest bread ; fine barley ; oats yield well, the Siberian is the best, it is a beautiful plant ; beans, peas, and vetches : buck-wheat is chiefly used to plough in green for manure. Sometimes cabbages, and very often potatoes, are raised as food for cattle, but more generally turnips ; and as these are kept exactly hoed, they are very productive, whilst those left without that management, as is the case usually in the midland and northern parts of the kingdom, are not half so beneficial. The foreign grasses, lucerne and fantfoigne, are greatly used ; clover takes well, but is frequently ploughed in after the first year, and forms a lay for wheat ; the two former remain for years : lucerne loves a deep soil ; it had used to be sowed in drills or rows for the more commodiously weeding it, but now the broadcast is preferred : fantfoigne will grow upon chalk, but feebly : it loves the stiff land upon the rock ; in sinking quarries where it grows, the roots are found eighteen feet deep : the first expense in the seed is the only one attending it ; the increase after the first and second year is very great ; a few acres of these invaluable grasses are sufficient to supply fodder for a great stock of cattle. Lucerne bears a blue, and fantfoigne a red flower, both of them beautiful ; the former yields three or four crops for cutting, the latter only one in a year, but excellent grazing afterwards.

The chief produce of this charming part of England is from the plantations ; and the hop, as most valuable, claims our earliest attention. It grows well upon the loam, but better upon that land which has stone at no great distance from its surface. The method of planting it is either by bedded sets, or such as are just separated from the parent root ; if the former, they must be a year old, three of them will do for each hill, of the latter five : care should be taken to procure the most healthy, and such as have at least three joints : but the stock must not be hurt by taking too many sets away from it ; a hole a foot wide and one deep should be made, and very fine mould put into it, in which plant the sets, and then cover them over with the same earth ; the plants must be at exact distances, 1000 or 1100 to an acre. A very small stick will do the first year, unless the sets have been bedded, and



and then two somewhat larger are sufficient; the second year the poles must be small; the third year they come to perfection, and will have cost 100%. rearing: they will yield, in a favourable year, from eight hundred to more than a ton weight, and sometimes, though rarely, a ton and an half. They should be manured at least once in three years, and that all over; but too generally the farmer does it only close to the hill: it is a good method sometimes to well clear round the hills, and put manure or compost; that is best which is a mixture of dung and soil: but dung alone is used, as is lime alone, or with soil: but what greatly surprises strangers, woollen rags, which are purchased in London, or imported from the continent; as these are the sweepings of hospitals, the refuse of wretchedness, filth, and disease—we have known fatal effects happen to those who cut or chop them for use; they are extremely disgusting, as parts of amputated limbs have been found amongst them. This kind of succedaneum for dung is most useful to such who have no other land than hop-grounds; we think there is not so much of this filthy commodity used as was a few years ago; the war occasioning a difficulty, and greater expense in bringing it from the continent.

The hop hills require from two to five poles, and to each pole three bines; but generally three poles are used. They are gathered as soon as the seed begins to be brown and hard. The poor and the lowest people in London, at that time usually out of employment, assist in gathering them; the strangers are lodged in sheds or out-offices. After cutting the bine, the pole is pulled up by hand, or by a dog, an iron instrument, and leaned against a bin, being a slight wooden frame, and the hops picked from it; they are then measured out, taken to the kiln or hoast, laid upon an hair cloth until they are thoroughly dry; afterwards they are put into bags, and are then ready for sale, when they are weighed by the exciseman, who marks them with the weight, the planter's name, residence, and date of the year.

Nothing can exceed the beauty of a hop-garden when the plant is luxuriant, and near the time of gathering; the busy scene is extremely pleasing when the hoppers are in the ground: it is, however, in some respects, disgusting to have the refuse of London, and other places, poured in upon the country. Yet all are so partial to the growth of them, that from the nobleman down to the tradesman they join the regular farmer in having hop-gardens; none, perhaps, gains less than the tradesmen, for they pay dearer for every thing, and have every disadvantage to contend with, except in point of selling the commodity. The great art of managing



naging hops and gaining by them, is in having just as much as the farm can reasonably support, as to manure, wood, and other requisites; and duly considering the fitness of the soil, and poling them exactly according to the manure given them, else they will be too luxuriant and choked, or weak and unable to reach the top of the pole.

They are a constant and heavy expense; but as no two persons can agree in what the cultivation of an acre costs, we shall be silent on that head; generally speaking, those who are at the greatest expense have the best profit: few have so many as fifty acres, those who have only ten are thought considerable growers. Perhaps no commodity more varies than hops; they have been sold so low as forty shillings, and as high as 18*l.* per hundred weight. The picking is generally as much as the duty; the poor in this county will obtain not less than 100,000*l.* in a great year by picking only. In this neighbourhood they have many harvests; haying, cherrying, cutting grain, filberting, hopping, and appleing.

Hops to a proverb are in some years productive; but they have innumerable misfortunes to contend with:—the wire and sword worms at their roots; a small insect of the bat kind attacks the shoot when first breaking the ground; afterwards the fly, a delicately fine creature, which comes in cold evenings in myriads, and covers all the under side of the leaf, and if it stays long leaves its young ones, which adhere close to the plant, are unwinged, and flat; these again get to a much larger creature, and at length obtain wings, but millions perish to one that becomes a fly; they are aphids which so often and so variously change their appearance. No art has been discovered to kill these devastators; the greatest friend to the planter against them is the lady-bird, lady-cow, or fly-golding, as it is variously called; the grub of which is black, or nearly so, and therefore called a negro, and eats up vast quantities of them, as do the lady-birds, when in their most perfect state. But these are not the only enemies the hop has to contend with; the cold weather often strikes them in the burr or blossom, and prevents its ever coming out, and if that is obviated, the fen, the white mould shrivels it up, or what is worse, the red mould, which makes it fall to pieces: but even if all these dangers are escaped, and the planter thinks he shall have a fine crop, the honey-dew, which destroys the plant, being the eggs of an animal which the microscope alone can discover, the fire-blast, owing to the solar rays collected by the dense steams arising in the gardens, or the high winds setting in, will in one day blast all his hopes, dispersing  
them



them in every direction, or tearing up the plant by the root, twisting off or bruising the branches, that they fade and become useless. It must be acknowledged that fortunes, and very considerable ones, have been acquired by the growth of hops, but often they are lost by injudicious persons cultivating them.

Some distinguish them as the white, the grey, and the red bine; the first are the earliest, the second the most estimable, the third, the coarser kind, which are chiefly planted high upon the hill, and consequently upon worse land; but these bear the blights best. We have wild hops growing in our hedges in parts of the kingdom, where they have never been cultivated: but it is generally allowed that those we have in our gardens were imported from Artois, in Flanders; they had been proscribed by parliament as a pernicious weed in 1428. Ground-ivy and other ingredients were used by our ancestors instead of hops; for beer is the liquor of the northern nations of Europe, and was the beverage of our Anglo-Saxon progenitors. The trade of a brewer was so consequential in the reign of Henry VI., that in 1438 he incorporated and made the brewers a company: they had been so in Paris so early as the year 1268. The English had a great trade in beer, and much was exported. In 1492 Henry VII. gave the Flemish a licence to export fifty tons of ale called beer.

It appears that if the replanting of hops in England was so late as 1525 or 1526, as many authors say, they must have rapidly increased; for we find frequent mention made of them in the reign of Henry VIII., which shows that many must have been grown; probably they were wholly confined to Kent: Farnham had no hops until the beginning of the last century. They had found their way into Scotland as a useful article in brewing; for at the taking of Haddington in that kingdom, by the English in 1548, there were found 3160 pounds. Henry VIII. used it to bitter his beer with, but commanded that it should not be injured by brimstone or sulphur. In Elizabeth's reign the trade in beer greatly increased, and consequently the growth of hops: this sovereign, in her thirty-ninth year, granted a licence to William Carr for nine years, to authorize and license any person to brew beer to be exported beyond sea. Its price was formerly more fixed; we shall, therefore, mention that in the reign of James I. a hundred weight of hops was sold for 1*l.* 3*s.* Great quantities have been yearly exported to the north of Europe by the English, whilst the Flemish have sent very little, owing to their inferiority in drying them. We even exported them to France before the war, though the neighbours of those people.



The northern nations, as well as Germany and Poland, grow hops, but neither in sufficient quantities for their own use, nor do they make beer enough for their consumption. As the growth of hops is become so beneficial, and of so great an importance to the kingdom, we flatter ourselves we shall be excused having dwelt so much upon them.

We shall next speak of apples and cherries, but only to observe, that here they are in great profusion, and of the best sorts. Cyder is made in Kent, but of a harsh, unpleasant nature: we think the reason is because they take little care in what they use, generally putting all together, even such as are injured. In Herefordshire the choicest fruit is selected, and damaged apples are always rejected. In Kent they mix spirits with this beverage with sugar, which softens and corrects, but is very unwholesome. We know not when regular orchards of apples and cherries first were planted in this county, but we suspect it was begun by Harris, the gardener of Henry VIII.; there were many in Elizabeth's reign. Pears are also grown, but in a small degree: plums are cultivated for sale, but chiefly nearer London. There are walnuts more by far than can be wanted for the table; the surplus is sent to the London market.

But of all the fruits that Kent produces the filberts are what most raises the wonder of strangers. They are generally planted with hops, and frequently the farmer raises in the same ground hops, filberts, cherries, and apple-trees: the hops are first displanted, then the filberts, next the cherry-trees, leaving the apple-trees masters of the field; but this practice, which we think a bad one, is now seldom pursued; they are usually reared only with hops, and are in full bearing in seven years; they are raised from suckers. Those which have a white skin over the kernel are preferred; they are generally sold for the London market before they attain perfection, and this for three reasons—the gentry particularly wish them to furnish out their dessert when scarce, they then weigh heavier, and because they are so liable to be stolen;—they are usually watched day and night for some time before they are gathered. An acre takes about 400 trees; they must be carefully pruned every year, leaving nothing but the young wood, and about Midsummer all the upright shoots are broken off: they are never suffered to be higher than six feet, and all the inside is entirely taken out to give air: they must be dug in the winter when they are suckered, and again in the spring. They are much cultivated about Maidstone, but chiefly in Barming and the Peckhams.



The filbert is not a native of England ; it originally came from Pontus, whence its name of *nux Pontica*. The Romans imported it to Avellino, in Naples, where it still flourishes in great abundance, and has from that circumstance been called *nux Avellina* : from thence it is presumed we have received, and now cultivate them in the same manner : there they grow upon the volcanic substances, here upon the shattery rock. In Avellino they yield a profit of 11,250*l.*, which probably arises chiefly from exportation ; perhaps some come to England : it is certain filberts are imported, but it is believed principally from Gijon, a small port in Spain ; from whence chefnuts are also procured, which articles there give maintenance to about eight hundred families.

This part of Kent is also very well supplied with small woods, usually called shaws ; many of them are planted ones : they are no less beautiful, than profitable for hop-poles. The plantation grounds are often supplied from the hills that run through the centre of the county, or from the Weald. The poles cut from the hills are preferred, because they are wiry and tough ; for, growing flower, the wood is less porous, and consequently, as more compact, will last the longer, and, generally speaking, the pole will remain as long as it has been years in growing. Holinshed, a Kentish man, says in his Chronicle, or Harrison who wrote the preface, “ Hops, “ in time past, were plentiful in this land, after also their maintenance did cease, “ and now being revived, where are anie better to be found ? where any greater “ commoditie to be raised by them ? onelie poles are accounted to be their greatest “ charge. But sith men have learned of late to sow ashen keies, in ash yards by “ themselves, that inconvenience in short time will be redressed.”—Besides ash, willow and chefnut are also planted ; and the gentlemen find this so profitable, that it is usual, when they fall their woods, to fill them up with one or other of these, or lay an ash or willow, which by having earth placed at two different parts, and the end also covered, will form of itself other stools or roots. The reader will, however, observe, that these three sorts of wood are not the only ones used for poles ; any straight young sapling will answer the purpose, though not equally well. Maple, wild cherry, oak, elm, hazel, beech, birch, and alder are used ; an elder one is a rarity ; but if it can be obtained, it will last for a great number of years. Plantation wood is usually fallen every ten years, and will yield 50*l.* an acre.

It will not be proper to omit an account of the quarries which are found on each side of the Medway near Maidstone, and afford a great article of commerce.



The stone they afford is very valuable; in the parish of Boughton Monchelsea it is taken up in great blocks, out of which are formed quoin-stones, troughs, and grave-stones: but in the parishes of Maidstone, East Farleigh, and Barming, where the quarries chiefly are, they use the best stone generally for headers, with which they build walls, or pave those parts of the street over which carriages and horses go, or squares for foot-paths or out-offices. The other purposes to which it is appropriated are lime to refine sugar, or for stucco work; this is called cork, is heavy, and of a fine blue colour, the grain fine, and smooth to the touch: it is taken and burnt near Westminster-bridge; much of it, put in small casks, placed in others of slacked lime, is sent to the West Indies. The other large stone is sold for the purpose of walling out the sea on the Kent and Essex coasts, or to shoot into the stirrings of London and Rochester bridges. The smallest is sent to turnpike roads, or conveyed in boats to Tunbridge to mend the roads in the lower part of Kent, where they have not any materials for that purpose. Formerly much of the land was enclosed by walls, but since the river has been made navigable the farmers have taken most of these away, and also cleared their lands of this incumbrance.

Quarries have been long used in Kent; probably both stone and chalk were dug by the Britons. It is well known that when the present cathedral church of St. Paul, in London, was built, Sir Christopher Wren discovered, at a great depth, the foundation of an edifice, supposed to be a church, which had been built by the Romans whilst they resided in this island; and upon examination that great architect found that the stone was Kentish ragge. In the year 1418 Henry V. commanded the clerk of the works of his ordnance to procure labourers for making 7000 stone balls for the cannons, to be of different sizes, out of the quarries of Maidstone, in Kent: and that quarries were worked about this town we learn from Leland, who tells us that stone had long been dug in East Farleigh, the next parish to it. Great quantities of land have been used for this purpose, and is more valuable than it was before the rock was removed: if on the plain ground where the plow went, by taking the stone out and levelling it a little, the crops are best; if planted with hops it becomes still more valuable. Should the sides of the banks be excavated, and the haddock, or what was the bed of the stone, planted with ash, the estate is much benefited; for the land is then greatly increased in value,



value, and even in dimension. Some of the places where quarries once were, are now very rural, solitary woods. Leaving the other parishes which compose this hundred, Maidstone claims peculiar attention.

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M A I D S T O N E.

IT is generally allowed that Maidstone was the *Caer Meguid*, *Medwag*, or *Megwad*, of the Britons; probably the *Vagniacæ* of the Romans, and certainly the *Medweaggeston* of the Anglo-Saxons, which implied that it was Medway's town, from *Medwæge*, middle river, and *ton*, a town. In *Domesday-book* it is called *Meddestane*, and now by contraction *Maidstone*.

It has for ages been a borough by prescription. It was particularly distinguished by Edward VI., who specified its rights; before his time a portreeve and twelve brethren governed it: but this sovereign, in his third year, incorporated it anew by the style of the mayor, jurats, and commonalty of the town of Maidstone, in the county of Kent. Unfortunately the inhabitants declaring for Sir Thomas Wyatt in his rebellion, the enfranchisement was lost. Queen Elizabeth, in her second year, restored the town to its former privileges, and confirmed their prescriptive right of returning two burgesses to parliament, which they had done in Edward VI.'s reign, and granted the mayor the power of acting as a justice of peace, freeing the townsmen from foreign sessions. James I. again confirmed all these privileges by his letters patent.

Difficulties, however, having arisen respecting the meaning of some of the clauses in these letters patent, they were explained, confirmed, and enlarged by a third charter of incorporation, by other letters patent, in 1604, and again in 1619. Charles II. amplified these charters in 1682; but at the Revolution the corporation rejected this last, and resorted to the others, by which they were governed until the year 1748, when being dissolved by the judgment of ouster against the acting jurats upon informations of *quo warranto*, a new one was given by George II., confirming and enlarging their privileges.

By this charter the corporation are possessed of an exclusive jurisdiction within their town and parish, and on the river Medway from East Farleigh bridge to a place called Hawkwood, in Barham, with cognizance of actions and replevins as far as the towns and parishes of East Farleigh, Barming, Loofe, Boxley, Linton,

and Otham, with the hamlets of Milhale, in Aylesford parish, and New Hythe, in that of East Malling. Not noticing other minuter circumstances, it is sufficient to observe that the town pays a farm rent of 3*l.* to the crown, and used to contribute to the fifth pier of Rochester bridge.

Maidstone has a weekly market on Thursdays; one for cattle and sheep on the first Tuesday of every month; and four fairs for horses, cattle, haberdashery, pedlary, &c., held on February 13th and 14th, May 12th and 13th, June 20th and 21st, and October 17th and 18th. The monthly markets are held by virtue of letters patent granted in 1751: the weekly ones were obtained by archbishop Boniface from Henry III. The resort to these is great, and much business is transacted, in which hops form a principal part. The fairs are chiefly held in the meadow containing sixteen acres, encircled with lofty trees, once belonging to Boxley priory; the fair for horned cattle has lately been removed to Pennenden-heath. The distance of this town from London is thirty-five miles, and nearly the same from Dover.

After passing a long narrow bridge, the entrance from the London road is very good. The High-street is spacious, and by taking down the Middle-row, would be one of the finest in the kingdom; opposite to this is East-lane, parted from the High-street by a long one running north and south, the first called Week-street, the other Gabriel's-hill, as far as the little bridge, when it takes the name of Stone-street: on the west of this last is Knight-rider's-street.

From the High-street to the north is the meadow, in front of which is a row of houses: a little farther towards the north is Union-street, both consisting chiefly of small houses; they lead to Earl-street, leading from the river to Week-street; and behind this is St. Faith's green, with its scattered houses in the same direction. On the south side of High-street is a small passage from the great bridge to the Cliff: higher up on the same side is Queen-street, both leading to the church. There is lately erected a row of houses to the east of Week-street, where others are intended to be built, called Union-place. On the western side of the bridge is the borough, consisting of many detached houses.

The town from west to east is nearly a mile, and from north to south almost three quarters of a mile. In the High-street stands the market-cross: its emblem, once on the top, has long been removed. It is an octagon building; was formerly called the Corn-cross, now used as a fish-market. A little below is another building, erected

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in the year 1608 by an assessment upon the town; this has been rebuilt, and is at present the corn-market.

Still more to the west is the county-hall, a handsome, modern, brick building; the corporation and the justices of the western division defrayed the expenses of erecting it, for the use of the county and corporation. The law causes are tried in the upper court; and at the assizes another court is formed for the trial of criminals, by enclosing some of the spaces between the arches.

Below the court-hall is the Middle-row, and a railed enclosure, where, on market days, the butchers' stalls are placed, and below it a new octagon building, stuccoed, used as a butter market, and to supply the people in this part of the town with water; the principal reservoir is the conduit, formerly, from its vicinity to the prison, called the gaol-conduit, built about 1624, and enclosed with free-stone, and lined with lead in 1645; it stands at the upper end of the High-street, where water of the finest quality is conveyed by pipes coming under the Medway from an enclosed spring called Rocky-hill, in the West Borough: the expense is defrayed by the corporation. Another conduit, a lofty stone octagon building, inconveniently standing in the middle of the High-street, was taken down in 1792.

The public gaol, for the use of the western division of Kent, is a modern stone building in East-lane, which, from its first erection, has been greatly enlarged and strengthened, and is now a suitable prison, under excellent regulations. The gaol was in the centre of the town until 1736, when the inhabitants petitioned to have it removed, as inconvenient from its situation, and having no room for the reception of debtors; this was so reasonable a request, that leave was given to take it down, and erect another in East-lane, large enough to contain both criminals and debtors. There is an inferior prison, significantly called the Brambles, which joins the court-hall.

The poor's-house, a brick building near the church, with an inscription on marble in the front, is three stories high, ninety-one feet in length, and twenty-one in breadth; built in 1720 at the expense of 700*l.* by Thomas Bliss, Esq., a native of Maidstone, and several times one of its representatives in parliament. Here the poor are usefully employed.

On St. Faith's green are alms-houses, founded and endowed for six poor persons of both sexes, in conformity to the will of Sir Joseph Banks, of Aylesford, Bart.,

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a native and representative in parliament of this place, who died in 1697, and left 60*l.* per annum for the maintenance of this charity, and appointed that the building should be kept in repair by his heirs. In the road leading to the Mote are fix almshouses for three men and three women, built and endowed by Mr. Edward Hunter, the first mayor after the new charter in 1748, who, in his lifetime, placed persons in them rent-free, and at his death left towards their support 8*l.* The nominees and trustees are lord Romney, the perpetual curate, and the recorder of Maidstone.

The late benevolent Mr. Brenchley, brewer, left a sum sufficient for four almshouses, where each person receives 12*l.* yearly.

A great addition to the beauty of this town is the extensive barracks, erected a little beyond Week-street, in the road to Rochester, with every accommodation for the soldiers. The apartments for officers, non-commissioned officers, and men, are spacious, affording room for 600 men, and 180 horses, all kept with great neatness: the building is low, the materials, boards painted white, which form a hollow square, having at a distance the appearance of an Asiatic palace. It is to be lamented that the riding-school is built in a direction to intercept the view towards the river. The greatest regularity, order, and propriety of behaviour, has manifested itself amongst the military resident in the barracks.

This town is computed to contain more than 1500 houses, and between 7 and 8000 inhabitants, a great increase since queen Elizabeth's reign, when in her eighth year there were only 294 houses, four landing-places, five ships and boats; one of thirty tons, one of thirty-two, one of forty, and one of fifty, and only twenty-two persons occupied in merchandize.—The barge-owners are numerous, and several of them men of very considerable wealth. The trade of Maidstone exceeds its appearance. The people live elegantly, and many of the families are opulent. The character of the inhabitants until these late ferments was very amiable; but that violence, however, which political contest had called forth, is gradually subsiding. At the beginning of this century, and for some years afterwards, many gentry resided amongst them; it now wholly consists of professional persons and tradesmen.

In the year 1792 the town was new paved, lighted, and many obstructions removed; since that time it has rapidly improved, several handsome houses having been built, or others new fronted; most of them are white, kept remarkably clean, forming altogether one of the most cheerful, pleasing towns in England.

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There are manufactories carried on for linen and packing-thread; of the former, two: of the latter, only one. The Walloons established this trade, and the people now call it Dutch-work. The distillery of English spirits, or Maidstone geneva, of very great magnitude, was established by the late Mr. George Bishop, and is now carried on by Sir William Bishop his brother, and Mr. Bishop their nephew; not less than 700 hogs are fed from it. Here are two very considerable beer and porter breweries, the very liberal Mr. Stacy's and Mr. Seager's: they not only supply the town, but the neighbourhood, and export to a great extent. At Sandling is a large brick-kiln, and another near Half-yoke. Great quantities of the finest white sand are sent from this parish, which is used in making flint and plate-glasses.

Within the town is a corn-mill, on the little river; in the parish are several. From these and Mr. Chamber's great granary wheat and flour are sent in large quantities to Rochester, Chatham, and London. The parish contains several paper mills, an oil and a fulling-mill. The product of these, and many others in the adjoining ones, are sent to London by water, which greatly increases the carrying or barge trade.

Timber is brought to Maidstone from the Weald of Kent and its vicinity, chiefly by water, and sent from thence to Chatham dock, and other places more distant. Large hoys, of fifty tons burden, are constantly going to, and returning from London, exchanging for other goods, at that great mart, the various articles of produce already mentioned. Warehouses and stowage-rooms are provided for hops, and large wharfs for English and foreign timber, giving this place and its environs a very busy appearance. The number of barges and all kind of craft upon the Medway, in and near the town, is extremely great; and if the projected union between that river and the Thames should take effect, it probably will be much augmented. Maidstone is also benefited by its free grammar and boarding schools.

There are few occurrences that have happened in Maidstone deserving particular notice. The first is the rebellion of Sir Thomas Wyatt, in the reign of queen Mary, who at the "bear ringle" in this place set forth his proclamation, and being the principal person in the parish, had influence enough to involve the inhabitants in his treason. To punish them, the queen took away their charter; their leader was executed in London; Sir Henry and Thomas Islêy, with Walter
Mantle,

Mantle, Esq., were put to death at Sevenoke; Brett, at Rochester; and Mr. Maplesden and some others, at this place. Mary, lighting the fires of religious intolerance, burnt several respectable protestants, inhabitants of this town, in the King's Mead, now the Meadow. On the contrary, her wise sister, queen Elizabeth, gave an asylum to the Walloons, persecuted and expatriated from the cruelties inflicted upon them by Alva, the ferocious, sanguinary governor of the Low Countries, in 1568. Here they lived in credit, enriching the nation which succoured them, by establishing the thread trade: that princess permitted them to enjoy their own religion, and they were chiefly governed by themselves. They had so mixed with the people around them before 1634, that not more than fifty families remained distinct; these were much troubled by having their conformity to the national church insisted upon; by anglicizing or entirely changing their names, few families descended from them can now be identified. In the reign of James I. the Middle-row was set on fire by lightning, during a great tempest, the account of which was taken to the mayor and brethren, then at Milhale in their barges, at their annual "fishing."

This place, notwithstanding its healthy situation, has greatly suffered by the plague. In 1593 there died of it sixty-five persons; in 1594, one hundred and nineteen; in the following year eighty-seven. In 1603 it again appeared in March, and from that month to March 1604 eighty-eight persons fell victims to it. The complaint was most fatal during the winter, and did not cease until 1605. It broke out in 1608, but was very slight: in 1609 it carried off sixty-three persons. In the fatal 1666, when the pestilence was great at Ostend, and other parts of the Netherlands, it was brought into England by the soldiers who returned home: in 1665 multitudes fled into the country from London. Many merchants, owners of ships, &c., shut themselves up on board their own vessels, and were supplied with food from Greenwich, Woolwich, and farm-houses on the Kentish bank of the river. Here they remained safe: it did not reach further than Deptford, and these persons were often permitted to go on shore and obtain fresh provisions in the towns, villages, and farm-houses. These vessels, when the plague greatly increased in 1666, went fairly out to sea, and put into such harbours as they thought safest. It was perhaps some of the persons who had left London in these dreadful times, secretly getting into Maidstone, that brought this evil amongst them. The first person dying of it was buried July 4, 1666; three hundred and forty-seven died in
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that year ending in March. In 1668 there were one hundred and fifty-three; it greatly abated in October; there were only two died of it in November; three in December; two in February 1668-9, and one in March, when it totally disappeared. Maidstone lost by this severe visitation exactly 500 persons; and yet probably many who died of it were never registered: the pest-house, still so called, is standing at Tovel: some were buried there. Happily this evil did not spread, not a single item being found in the surrounding parish registers. Until very lately a supplicatory sentence remained upon a house near the river, as was usual in times when this dreadful scourge threatened to sweep away the affrighted inhabitants.

Maidstone underwent an evil of another nature in 1648. The inhabitants, distinguished for loyalty, judged it proper to make one effort to restore Charles I. to his lost crown. Sir John Mayney came hither with 1000 horse and foot of the king's friends; the people every way assisted the undertaking. The republican junto feeling alarmed, sent general Fairfax to suppress them: though he was then suffering much from the gout, he marched with 10,000 troops, and forced his way over East Farleigh bridge. The town, undismayed, resisted all solicitations to submit, and made every exertion to repel an attack: 2000 men lined every street, and guarded every avenue: the loyal Sir William Brockman brought 800 men to aid them. Fairfax surrounded the town, and did all that so gallant a general could; but he found every where an obstinate valour, and each street was disputed with the greatest courage, not an inch being gained without great loss. An attack of five hours obliged them to give way to a decided superiority, new troops arriving to aid the parliament general. At twelve at night these true subjects fought retreat in the church, where they were obliged to surrender upon the best terms they could obtain. There was no action better maintained during the whole of the unhappy contest; and lord Clarendon acquaints us, "It was a sharp encounter, very bravely fought with the general's whole strength; and the veteran soldiers confessed that they had never met with the like desperate service during the war." The slaughter was great. Maidstone must have lost many of her townsmen, because, for years after, the number of widows who married greatly exceeded the spinsters. The dead were buried where they fell in the neighbourhood; and if any were interred in the church-yard of this place, they are not registered.

The third misfortune experienced by Maidstone, was in common with many parishes in this fertile valley, by the great hail-storm which happened August 19, 1763, the most tremendous upon record in this kingdom. The reader will be more gratified with the account, when he learns that part is taken from an intelligent person who made minutes of it whilst fresh in his memory, and who was one of the sufferers.

On Friday, August 19, 1763, a storm arose at sea off the Sussex coast: the morning was still, with scarcely a breeze of air, and so excessively hot, that it was suffocating. About ten o'clock in the forenoon a black cloud arose towards the west; soon after which the wind blew an hurricane; the clouds came on with amazing velocity, throwing out in their course dreadful flashes of lightning, and the thunder was almost one continued roar. About half past eleven the rain poured in torrents, and in a few minutes was intermixed with some detached hailstones, which were very large, as introductory of what were to follow: the hail, wind, lightning, and thunder, soon came on so furiously, that all was one dreadful scene of horror. The boughs, branches, and leaves of trees broken and stript off, flying in the wind, still more darkened the air; the tiles and windows rattling, and dashing to pieces; trees torn up and falling, struck all with a terror not easily to be expressed: some running distractedly about, wringing their hands, whilst others stood like inanimate beings.

The storm lasted about half an hour. What a scene ensued!—an universal desolation every where presented itself; some houses filled with water, others, with their barns blown down, roofs and walls shattered, the windows quite destroyed, the waters roaring in torrents down the streets, plowing up the stones in their course, and leaving deep chasms; the surface of the earth covered with the prodigious hailstones and water; corn, fruit, and hops destroyed; the fields and hop-gardens every where disfigured; trenches formed by the rushing water; the roots of the hops bared, the poles thrown down in all directions; heaps of stones and sand driven through the hedges; boughs and branches scattered; the fruit-trees stripped of their bark. The smaller animals, such as hares, pheasants, and other game, lay dead in the field; and a large hog was killed by the hail upon Barming-heath. The larger quadrupeds, endowed with superior instinct, saw their danger; horses, bullocks, and sheep, ran and sheltered themselves from the coming storm.

In Maidstone, on one side of the High-street, not only the glass, but the lead and frames of the windows were forced in and destroyed, particularly by the hail. It

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was like fragments of ice, and of very irregular shapes ; at Barming one piece was taken up formed like an oyster ; Sir Philip Boteler measured and found it nine inches round at the extremity, and even ten days after some hailstones were taken up four inches and an half in circumference. One of the largest struck the stile of an horizontal post-dial of brass, and bent it near thirty degrees towards the east. Posts, bars, and gates had deep impressions from them ; they were of different shapes ; some flat, irregular, and very much jagged ; others an assemblage of pieces of ice ; whilst a few were globular, with a small cavity in the centre, and if they were held together they immediately froze, and were not easily separated.

The storm commenced in this county at Tunbridge-wells, whilst the people were at prayers in the chapel, and passed quite across to Sheerness, a distance of forty miles, its breadth not exceeding four miles : the direction of it was from south-west by west, to north-east by east ; and it was severely felt in the parishes of Tunbridge, Speldhurst, Penshurst, Tudeley, Capel, Pembury, part of Hadlow, Yalding, Hunton, Brenchley, Mereworth, East and West Peckham, Watringbury, Nettlested, East Malling, Teston, East and West Farleigh, Barming, Loose, Maidstone, Boxley, and Detling ; after which its violence was spent, and only little injury was occasioned. So great devastation had never been known ; numbers from all parts came to witness the melancholy scene. The inhabitants of the vicinity humanely raised 3000*l.* in a few months, which in some measure relieved the unhappy sufferers : but the cruel effects long remained ; most of the hop-hills died, the filbert and apple trees swelled in knots where they had been bruised, and some were so injured, that the branches and shoots long after continued to die ; the cherry-trees bore it the best, owing perhaps to the strength of their outward bark.

The last memorable circumstance to be noticed, is the sudden thaw of the Medway, in January 1795, when that river rose to an astonishing height from the melting of the preceding snows. The ice above Teston coming down in large sheets with the current, choked up the arches of that bridge, and destroyed Bow bridge : the furious current with its loaded surface carried away the wooden bridges of Barnjett and St. Helen's, at Barming ; resisted by that of East Farleigh, until its parapet walls gave way, the whole contents floated with rapidity down the river, damaging the locks, and threatening Maidstone bridge ; but at length the loaded water, increased by the back river, rising higher than the walls, the whole of the ice and water passed on : fortunately the frost of the ensuing night arrested the water in its

way, and a more gradual thaw removed it without further mischief; those who lived in the houses near the river were compelled to use boats in the street, and take to their upper rooms, as their houses were three or four feet deep in water. The fields had a very extraordinary appearance from the vast sheets of ice which lay upon them, and had bent and kept down trees of considerable thickness. It was justly compared to the breaking up of the great frosts in North America.

Maidstone was the estate of the archbishops of Canterbury, and in the reign of king John they had a house here, which Ufford, about the year 1348, began to rebuild; and Islip, who followed him, after the government of Bradwardine, who sat only a few weeks, proceeded with the work, bringing materials from Wrotham, as has been mentioned; and Courtney, his successor, carried on the design. Most of the future primates occasionally residing here, Henry VI. honoured it with his presence in the archiepiscopate of Chichele. The palace was much improved and beautified by cardinal archbishop Morton; but Cranmer exchanged the building with Henry VIII. Sir Thomas Wyat received it from Edward VI.: vesting in the crown by his attainure, Elizabeth gave it to Sir John Astley, a family ennobled by Charles I. It remained with them until the year 1729, and then passed to the ancestor of the present possessor, lord Romney. The manor remained in the crown until Charles I. gave it to the trustees in fee of lady Elizabeth Finch viscountess Maidstone, soon after created also countess of Winchilsea, to be held in socage: her descendant Heneage, fourth earl of Winchilsea, sold it to the Marham family in 1720; and it is now, with the palace, inherited by lord Romney. The manor is very extensive, its jurisdiction including the whole hundred and manor of Maidstone. At the annual court leet and court baron a constable for the hundred is chosen, and a borougher for each of the parishes or boroughs of Barming, Boxley, Detling, Linton, the borough of Crockhurst, and one jointly for the parishes of East Farleigh and Loose.

The Mote, situated a mile from the town in a park finely wooded, has long been a place of great consequence. It was castellated in the reign of Henry III. by the Leybornes, who obtained from that sovereign a Tuesday's market, and a yearly fair for three days at the feast of St. Cross. After the Leybornes the Shoffords inherited it, who assumed also the name le Mote; the de Dittons, de Burghersh's; thence it came to the Woodvilles, afterwards earls of Rivers, who likewise bore amongst their other titles that of baron de la Mote. In this family it remained until seized by Richard III. after he had illegally and inhumanly destroyed Anthony earl
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of Rivers, at Pontefract; he gave the feat to his infamous favourite Sir Robert Brakenbury. Henry VII. restored it to Thomas earl of Rivers, who left it to Thomas Grey marquis of Dorset. He passed the Mote to Sir Henry Wyat, of Allington-castle, who disgavelled it; his grandson, the vain Sir Thomas Wyat, lost it and his life. Queen Mary gave it to archbishop cardinal Pole, for a term of years; and Elizabeth in fee to Nicholas and Dixon, of whom probably Sir William Rither, lord mayor of London, purchased it. Susan his daughter and coheir took it to Sir Thomas Delmarii or Cæsar, and after his death to Thomas Philipott, Esq., who, with the eldest son of her first marriage, joined in alienating it to the Tustons, one of whom bequeathed it to a lady of the name of Wray; she disposed of it to the ancestor of the Right Hon. Charles lord Romney, lord lieutenant of Kent, the present owner of this feat and manor. Perhaps few families are more deservedly honoured and beloved than that of Marsham. The present nobleman is building a very superb feat at some distance from the old one; the situation is very elevated, commanding a view of the circumjacent country, and is a grand object for several miles. The rooms are very spacious; a fine piece of water has been obtained near the house.

The manor of Goulds is somewhat south of the Mote, which, with the estate of Shepway-court, was the property of the Vinters, one of whom endowed his chantry with them. Henry VIII. granted Goulds to Deuntley, to hold *in capite* by knight's service: from him it came to the Blagnes, who disposed of it to the Hendleys or Hendleberys, which family had purchased Shepway-court of Sir Thomas Wyat: the whole came to the Tustons, and from them to the Marshams, and is now possessed by lord Romney.

Bigons or Digons, in Knight-rider-street, was long the feat of the Maplesdens, a family more numerous than any in Kent; the widow of Gervase Maplesden, gent., who died in 1603, saw ninety of her descendants. The Maplesdens were for a number of years amongst the principal inhabitants of Maidstone. The unfortunate Mr. George Maplesden, joining the rebel standard, lost Bigons. Queen Mary granted it to the Barhams: one of them considerably improved and enlarged the house. After many transfers it is now the property of James Hatley, of Ipswich, in Suffolk, Esq. The arms of Edward VI., when prince of Wales, in painted glass, appear in one of the windows.

Shales-court, a manor in the south part of the parish, was once possessed by the
 Freming-

Freminghams, then by the Pimpes ; one of them disposed of it to the Wyats, who exchanged it with the crown. Edward VI. granted it to Sir Walter Hendley, fergeant at law, whose daughter and coheir took it to the Wallers, and they reconveyed it to another branch of the Hendleys, who in the reign of Charles II. disposed of it to Sir John Banks, Bart. : with a daughter and coheir of his it went to the earl of Aylesford's family. Its handsome manor-house in Stone-street was the residence of the late general Kingsley, and now of Thomas Pope, Esq., senior jurate and justice of the corporation.

Chillingstone was anciently a manor belonging to the Cobhams, afterwards the Maplesdens, who lost it by attainure, and was then granted to the Hendleys : it has had a variety of owners, and is now the property of William Stacy, of Canterbury, Esq. The large ancient mansion is near St. Faith's green.

East-lane manor is so denominated from its situation. By the dissolution of Leeds priory it came to Henry VIII., who gave it to the church of Rochester. The dean and chapter hold a court baron, to which quit-rents are paid for twenty-five tenements standing in East-lane and the Middle-row.

The Park-house is a seat, with an estate possessed by the see of Canterbury, until Cranmer exchanged it with Henry VIII., who leased the seat and Le Park to William Smith ; but the unfortunate Sir Anthony Knevet appears to have occupied it. In the reign of Charles II. it had been granted away, for it was then the property of Sir Thomas Taylor, Bart., whose son leaving no issue, his heirs sold it to the Calders. The late Sir Henry Calder, Bart., a general in the army, and deputy-governor of Gibraltar, took down the old house, and built another at a small distance. It is a very handsome, large edifice, with a commanding prospect, in the parish of Boxley, though not half a mile from Maidstone, on the east side of the road leading to Rochester.

Great Buckland manor is on the summit of the hill to the west of Maidstone ; the original name was Bocland, from its tenure. The de Boclands held it under the see of Canterbury, first in gavel-kind, afterwards in frank fee, until Henry IV.'s reign, when it was given to the college of St. Mary and All Saints, in Maidstone. At the dissolution it remained in the crown until Edward VI. gave it to lord Cobham. Upon the misfortunes of that family, by stipulations it came to the Cecils earls of Salisbury ; they disposed of it to the Horspooles, and they to the family of English, who in Charles II.'s reign conveyed it to Sir John Banks. One of his

his coheirs took it, in the partition of his estates, to the ennobled family of Finch; and it is now the property of the earl of Aylesford.

A second part of Buckland, called Little Buckland, was in the reign of James I. the property of Elizabeth viscountess of Maidstone and countess of Winchilsea, whose descendants sold it to the Marshams; and it is now lord Romney's.

A third part of Buckland, also called Little Buckland, which John Fletcher, in Charles II.'s reign, conveyed to Christopher Vane lord Barnard, has descended from that family to David Papillon, of Acrise, Esq.

Halfway Oke, now Half Yoke, once a manor, is near East Farleigh bridge. It has been vested in the different families of Fremingham, Pimpe, Isley, and Videon. It has lost its manorial rights, and one part was sold to the French's, and of them bought by Mr. Fowle, of Frant; the other part by the Rev. Arthur Harris, vicar of East Farleigh, several of whose children possessed it: the last of them, Thomas Harris, of Barming, Esq., dying unmarried, left it for life to Mrs. Mary Dorman, who now enjoys it. The remainder is vested in the family of Mumford, of Sutton at Hone.

The hamlet of Luddington, anciently Lodingford, from a ford so called over the river, is accounted in Maidstone parish, though the parishes of Linton and Loose intervene. It is situated near Style bridge, in the road leading to Marden and Staplehurst. The Rev. Dr. William Forster, by marriage, inherits this manor.

The college of priests, or hospital of St. Peter and St. Paul, founded by archbishop Boniface in 1260, patronized by several succeeding metropolitans, and confirmed by the English and papal courts, was surrendered in 1546, by its last master, into the royal hands, when its annual revenue was 212*l.* 5*s.* 3½*d.*, and its clear yearly income 159*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.* Edward VI. granted it to the Cobhams. The Marshams have long possessed the building with the college lands; the former stands on the south side the cemetery of the church, and is of stone, now converted into a handsome residence: the fine gateway is used for offices, and the other parts of this ancient fabric are converted into hoasts, stowage rooms for hops, and such other purposes.

John Wotton, rector of Staplehurst, and canon of Chichester, was the first master, and by his own desire was buried on the south side of the chancel of the church, where many of his successors were also laid; the most celebrated of them, the learned William Grocyn, tutor and friend of the still more illustrious Erasmus, dying

dying at the age of eighty, in 1522, was buried at the end of the stalls in the high choir, or great chancel in this church.

The fraternity of Corpus Christi, founded by some townsmen, is now the free grammar-school, standing at the end of Earl-street, near the river. The institution enrolled both natives and the most eminent knights, parochial clergy, and ladies, in the neighbourhood; the annual subscription of whom, with obit money, formed the principal part of their revenues: their feasts upon Corpus Christi day were very profuse. The brothers professed the rule of St. Benedict.

At its suppression by Edward VI. the fixed income was 40*l*. The corporation purchased the site for 9*l*. 6*s*. 8*d*. To allay the intemperate heats of some of the townsmen respecting what use it should be appropriated to, the duke of Somerset, the protector, wrote a conciliatory letter, exhorting all of them to unite in using what had been consecrated to religious purposes for the public good; the letter had the wished-for effect. Elizabeth gave the school several excellent statutes for its government. Mr. Thomas Cole was its first master. The present one is the Rev. Thomas Evans. William Lamb, a gentleman of the chapel to Henry VIII., gave 10*l*. yearly to it; and the Rev. Robert Gunsley, rector of Titsey, in Surry, an exhibition to two out of his four scholars, which are sent to University college, in Oxford. The corporation gives 20*l*. a year. John Davy, M. D., who died in 1649, gave an estate for the better maintenance of the master and usher: some of its lands have been lost for want of care. The income is but small. The school-room and some other parts are what were the chapel, and three sides of the cloister. The late master, the Rev. Thomas Cherry, who now worthily presides over Merchant Taylors' school, in London, was a very liberal and munificent benefactor, by improving the old part, and adding many conveniences to it. He will be long lamented at Maidstone and its neighbourhood.

Ancient foundation. At the corner of East-lane, fronting to the High-street, is a house which has its lower or ground floor vaulted with stone, with a Gothic door-case, evidently once some religious building. It is called the priory, or friery, in old deeds, and is generally supposed to have been a convent of Franciscan or Grey friars, founded here in 1331 by Edward III., and John earl of Cornwall, his brother, but removed to Walsingham, in Norfolk. Maidstone is very greatly raised since the fourteenth century; the entrance into the ancient part of this house being so much beneath the surface of the street, that the top of the arched door-way is parallel

parallel to the pavement, and a flight of steps leads into the apartment, now a vaulted warehouse.

Another ancient religious edifice is on the west side of the river in the borough, finely seated upon the bank: it was the property of the late Mr. Addison. The chapel, used for the stowage of bark, is quite entire, and having no pillars, is one of the finest rooms that can well be imagined; the architecture in the inside is so simply elegant, that the lovers of the true Gothic must lament with the pious that it is not converted to the use for which it was originally designed. Many other buildings are scattered about or adjoin it. In what is now a garden was the cemetery, where many human bones were some years ago taken up, and buried close to the banks of the river. It is singular that none of the Kentish historians mention this ancient religious foundation, though it forms a prominent feature from the bridge, and many other parts of the town and neighbourhood.

Maidstone is in the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Sutton, but exempt from the jurisdiction of the archdeacon. The church is one of the finest parochial ones in the kingdom; the body is much the oldest. The chancel, before it was rebuilt by archbishop Courtney, extended some yards farther to the east. The foundations of the ancient chancel were within these last ten years taken up at a great expense; but as the cemetery is far too small for so populous a place, it made more room to inter the dead, and was in some measure become necessary. There was a spire which was covered with lead, but this was burnt down by lightning on November 2, 1730. The church is extremely neat within, and kept in the most exact and commendable manner; both church and chancel have been thoroughly repaired and greatly improved; the roof is lofty, and covered with copper. It was anciently dedicated to the blessed Virgin Mary, but by Courtney, when made collegiate, to All Saints.

There are a great number of ancient and modern monuments; archbishop Courtney's is the most remarkable of the old ones: it has been lately discovered that his bones rest in the middle of the choir, under a stone which had his effigies in brass. On one side the altar is a tomb erected over the great grandfather of Edward IV.'s queen. Several of the ennobled families of Aftley and Marsham lie in vaults within the communion rails.

The stalls for the master and fellows of the college still remain in the chancel:

until the burial of the late lord Romney, some of the painted tiles, with coats of arms upon them, were upon the pavement.

This fine edifice would have been destroyed at the Reformation, if Edward VI. had not permitted, and James I. confirmed it to the parish. The former sovereign gave the rectory to Sir Thomas Wyat; since then it has been accounted only as a perpetual curacy. At his attainure queen Mary gave the patronage to cardinal archbishop Pole, but the great tithes to Christopher Roper, Esq., for a term of years. Queen Elizabeth granted the reversion to Parker and his successors, archbishops of Canterbury; but the emolument to the incumbent was become so very small, that Whitgift augmented it 10*l.* per annum, Juxon 37*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, and Sancroft gave the small tithes of the borough of Week and Stone, the commodities of the church-yard, and one moiety of the small tithes within the town and borough of Maidstone: the present curate is the Rev. John Denne, A. M. It is singular that no house belongs to the preferment, which is still a scanty provision. The rectory makes a part of the archiepiscopal revenue. In this church were two chantries suppressed with the college: the one founded by Robert Viner in the reign of Edward III., the other by archbishop Arundel in that of Henry IV.

St. Faith's church or chapel was not parochial, but independent of the mother church, standing on the green, to which it gave name, and once served as a place of divine worship to the people who resided on the north side of the town. Like the other religious foundations in this place, its history is little known. It came into the hands of Edward VI., perhaps by the general words of the act to suppress all religious places not parochial; yet the parish continued to use it for some time, and to bury their dead in the cemetery till the reign of James I., though the Mapledens owned it as their estate until their attainure, and after them the Barhams: a part at least of it was used by the Walloons for a place of public worship until 1634, when archbishop Laud obliged them to conform to the national church. The presbyterians hired it afterwards for the same purpose until 1735, when they erected a meeting-house elsewhere. Much of the chancel is still standing, and is now divided; one part is a boarding-school for young ladies, the other some time ago was converted into an assembly-room; a strange change from its original use! The cemetery, which was large, has lately become a nursery-ground; many of the remains of mortality were taken up, which the gardener decently re-interred a little

lower

lower than the spade had occasion to go. The whole was the property of Sir Thomas Taylor, Bart., of whose heirs Mr. Samuel Fullager purchased the estate; and it is now the property of his son, Mr. Christopher Fullager.

The town and parish of Maidstone have given some remarkable characters. Dr. Lee, archbishop of York, was born here; and in distant ages many great ecclesiastics, from its having been the place of their nativity, their having been benefited, or resided here, took the name of de Maidstone. The surname of Maidstone is often found in our histories and elsewhere. In the last century Andrew Broughton, gent., the most active of the clerks of that infamous tribunal, the pretended high court of justice, which sentenced their sovereign Charles I. to the block, was an attorney in, and recorder of Maidstone. Attending the public worship, Wilson, a zealous monarchical presbyterian, who then was perpetual curate, inveighing against the king's murder, saying, "That David's heart smote him
" when he only cut off the skirt of Saul's garment, but men dared now to cut off
" the head of a king without remorse;" he rose from his seat, and left the church; observing which, the preacher remarked, that "when the word of God comes
" home to a man, it makes him fly for it." Broughton, highly incensed, obtained the school-room for the use of Joseph Whiston, an independent preacher, where he regularly attended. This man governed Maidstone during the Usurpation; in 1648, at the expense of 50*l.* a new mace was procured by him without the royal arms. In 1659 he was mayor a second time, but removed, as he became obnoxious from his horrid crime. At the Restoration, coming down privately from London, he, as recorder, proclaimed Charles II.; but immediately went to the Star inn, where his servant waited with a fleet horse; he rode off full speed to a sea-port, and escaped to the continent. By proclaiming the son of his murdered master, he hoped to escape punishment; but the parliament excepted him in the act of indemnity, and being proscribed, Charles II. gave the very handsome house which he had built in Earl-street, now divided, to the duke of York his brother, who soon disposed of it: until within these three or four years the arms of Broughton were over the door; they were the same as those of the baronet family of that name. This infamous man died at Vevay, in Switzerland, where is this epitaph upon his monument given us by Mr. Addison, in his Travels:

“ DEPOSITUM

“ *Andreæ Broughton, armigeri Anglicani Maydstonensis in comitatu Cantii, ubi
 “ bis prætor urbanus; dignatusque etiam fuit sententiam regis regum profari. Quam
 “ ob causam expulsus patriâ suâ, peregrinatione ejus finitâ, solo senectutis morbo
 “ affectus requiescens a laboribus suis in Domino obdormivit, 23 die Feb. A. D.
 “ 1687, ætatis suæ 84.*”

Nearly equal in infamy was Thomas Trapham, son of a father of both his names, of Maidstone, admitted a bachelor of physic, at Oxford, in 1648, who, as surgeon to general Fairfax, being employed to prepare the body of Charles I. for interment, brutishly said, when he had fixed the head to the trunk, “ I have sewed
 “ on the head of a goose.” He became surgeon to Cromwell, and died at Abingdon, December 29, 1683, in favour with, and employed by such who were, like him, bigotted republicans.

Thomas Read, of Maidstone, gent., was one of the witnesses brought by the high court of justice against the unhappy monarch; his evidence was, that, “ Pre-
 “ sently after the laying down of arms in Cornwall, between Lestithiel and Foy,
 “ i. e. Lestwithiel and Fowey, in or about the latter end of the month of August,
 “ or the beginning of September 1644, he, this deponent, did see the king in the
 “ head of a guard of horse.”—Many of the witnesses against the king were compelled loyalists; we may charitably hope this gentleman was one. It is singular that Maidstone, then so much smaller than now, should have three such characters at one time.

John Jenkyns, a famous musician and composer, well known in the courts of Charles I. and II., whose fame extended even to Italy, was a native of Maidstone: as was the late fine engraver, Mr. Woollett. Mr. Jeffery, jun., of this town, who died some years ago, would have been amongst the most able painters that Britain has known, had he lived, as the specimens we have of his pencil evince. A collection of drawings, which would be appropriate to an edition of Chaucer, are incomparable, equally pleasing to the artist and the antiquary. There are two instances of longevity in the parish registers: July 30, 1616, Avis Sommerhurst, widow, was buried “ *æt. ut dicunt 102;*” and Ann Nash, buried June 25, 1625, aged 106 years.

B O X L E Y.

TO the north-east of Maidstone is Boxley, written Bofeleu in Domesday-book, and Boxele and Boxle in the Textus Roffensis; on the south, it nearly joins the town of Maidstone, stretching itself almost four miles in length, though not exceeding three in breadth, and generally much less. On Boxley-hill is one of the most extensive and pleasing prospects in this part of Kent.

The land is very various; to the north, chalk; the middle, chiefly sand; to the south, more fertile; but a heavy, swampy soil. There are two streams, one rising near the chalk hills, the other below the church; uniting near the abbey, they fall into the Medway opposite Allington-castle. It is greatly intersected by roads. Several paper-mills form principal features: the upper ones are the property of lord Aylesford, the lower ones of Messrs. Hollingsworth, called the Old Turkey mills. They are very extensive buildings, and their mechanism is no less observable than the regularity of the persons employed, and the commodiousness of every part of the whole for various branches of the manufactory, which exceeds every other in the kingdom; especially the wire-weave, universally admired. The mills were erected by Mr. James Whatman, who, in 1739, pulled down the preceding ones used for fulling, and in their room built these; his son James Whatman, Esq., brought them to their present perfection. In 1794 he disposed of them to the gentlemen who now carry on the business.

The manor of Boxley was held by Alnod Cilt prior to, and by Robert Latin under Odo bishop of Bayeux, after the Norman conquest. It remained in the crown after his disgrace, until Richard I. gave it to the abbey of Boxley, founded in 1146 by William d'Ipre earl of Kent, who died a monk at Laon, in Flanders. The order of Cistercians, or white monks, were under the protection of the blessed Virgin, the patroness of all their monasteries. They became a society first at Cîteaux, in Burgundy, in the year 1098, and were so popular in England, that at their dissolution they had eighty-five houses.

The abbot of this monastery was twice in the reign of Edward I. summoned to sit in the house of peers. Edward II. honoured Boxley-abbey with a visit. Edward III. granted free warren to the abbot in the manor. The last abbot surrendered the house to Henry VIII.; the clear revenue was 204*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.* according

to Dugdale; Speed gives its income at 218*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.* A chapel, dedicated to St. Andrew the apostle, was near the gate of the abbey.

This monastery was remarkable for two pieces of Romish quackery; a crucifix, called the rood of grace, which by mechanism moving its eyes, imposed upon the credulity of the ignorant vulgar. It was taken to London, publicly broken to pieces and burnt, at St. Paul's cross, on Sunday, February 24, 1538, before Dr. Hilsey bishop of Rochester, and a prodigious multitude. The other was a statue of St. Rumbald, called by the common people St. Gumbald, and held by them in the utmost reverence from its supposed power of working miracles. By such low tricks the monks disgraced themselves, and injured the best of interests.

The site and manor was exchanged by Henry VIII. with Sir Thomas Wyat; when all the estates of that unfortunate criminal were lost to his family, queen Mary restored the manor to his widow. Queen Elizabeth granted the abbey to John Astley, Esq., for a term of years; at its expiration the Wyats appear to have succeeded to it by a reversionary grant from that sovereign. The lineal descendant left this manor to the ennobled family of Marsham, and it is now the property of lord Romney; whose sisters, the Hon. Miss Marshams, and his lordship's brother-in-law, John Cooker, Esq., reside here, universally beloved and respected. Courts leet and baron are regularly held for this manor, whose tenants are freeholders in free soccage tenure.

Boxley-abbey went to the heirs of George Wyat, Esq. until it came to Sir Francis Wyat, governor of Virginia, who had two sons, Henry and Edwin; the former leaving an only daughter, married to Sir Thomas Seyliard, Bart., she took the abbey into that family; but the manor being proved to have been settled upon male issue, with the estates appendant upon it, went to Mr. Ewin Wyat, the younger brother. Sir Thomas Seyliard's two daughters and coheirs sold the abbey to the Austens. The last baronet of that family devised it to the relations of his lady, and in virtue of that will it came to John Amhurst, Esq., and since his death without issue, to captain John-Thomas Amhurst, and the representatives of the late Mr. James Allen, in equal shares.

Newnham-court, a manor belonging anciently to Boxley-abbey, came to the crown by Sir Thomas Wyat's attainure. Queen Elizabeth, in her eleventh year, gave it to the Astley family; they to their relation Sir Norton Knatchbull, Bart., and he to Sir John Banks, Bart., one of whose daughters and coheirs took it to the

Finch's,

Finch's, earls of Aylesford: the present nobleman obtained an act of parliament to empower him to exchange some premises which were a part of it, especially Poll mill, with Mr. Whatman.

Wavering, a hamlet, was, at an early period, possessed by the Houghams, near Dover. After being divided into lots, it wholly vested in the Wyat family; and thence, by Sir Thomas's attainure, in the crown, but was restored by queen Elizabeth for three lives, the remainder being granted by Charles I. to Stephen Alcock, of Rochester, Esq.; he conveyed it to the Wyats, the last of whom devised it to the ancestor of lord Romney, the present possessor, who also enjoys the fee-farm of the manor, purchased from the crown in the reign of Charles II., and confirmed by parliament. The manor is now merged in the paramount one of Boxley.

Vinters, anciently Vintners, on the south part of the parish, gave name and residence to the Vinters; they sold it in Henry IV.'s reign to the Freminghams, who left it to the Isleys; upon their attainure queen Mary granted it to the Cutts; and after many transfers the feat and estate was alienated to the Whytes, who resided here, and afterwards to the baronial family of Onley: lord Onley in 1783 was enabled by parliament to dispose of the premises, which were purchased by the late James Whatman, Esq. The family of Champneis had usually occupied the feat, which Mr. Whatman rebuilt, and his widow Mrs. Whatman makes it her residence: the remainder is vested in James Whatman, Esq., his only son. The tithes of this estate, once belonging to Leeds-abbey, are now by the gift of Henry VIII., part of the possessions of the dean and chapter of Rochester.

Ovenhelle, now Overhill-farm, lying on the chalk-hills, was formerly a manor, and, with others near it, obliged to contribute to the repair of the fourth pier of Rochester bridge. The Longchamps held it; after them the Pencestres; then the Cobhams; and now lord Romney, from the will of the last Mr. Wyat. Sir Osbert de Longo Campo, or Longchamp, held the manor of Edward I. by fergeantry, the service of which was singular, attending the king in his army into Wales forty days at his own expense, with a horse valued at five shillings, and a wallet worth sixpence, having a broche to it.

The Grange, or Nether Grange, part of the estate belonging to the abbey, was by queen Mary retained upon Wyat's execution. Queen Elizabeth gave it, consisting of a messuage and 340 acres of meadow and pasture land, to George Clarke, Esq., whose son disposed of it to the Brewers, and they in the reign of Charles I. to the Calders,

Calders, who now possess it, the seat of which has been mentioned in Maidstone parish.

Court-lodge, a large farm, is the property of Sir William Geary, Bart., by the limitation of his relation Leonard Bartholomew, of Oxonhoath, Esq.

The Grove, on the south side of the parish, from the Waverings passed in Henry IV.'s reign to the Burbiges; the last heir male leaving it to his sister, she conveyed it, in 1702, to Mr. John Watts, so well known for his working the very fine vein of fuller's earth in this parish. His heirs alienated the Grove to general Belford, who left it to his two sons, colonel Gustavus Belford, and William Belford, Esq. The property is shared by the former of those gentlemen, and the two daughters and coheirs of the latter.

The seats in this parish not noticed, are those of the Rev. George Berville, which he inherits from the will of his maternal uncle, John Charlton, Esq.; and Park-house, once the residence of the St. John family, now of Thomas Best, Esq.

Boxley is within the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Sutton. Its church, dedicated to All Saints, is a fine, large Gothic structure: there are some handsome monuments within it of the Wyats, Champneys, and Charltons; and in the cemetery the Bests have elegant tombs. After much contention between the monks of Boxley and those of Rochester, the great tithes were awarded to the former. At the dissolution Henry VIII. gave them to the dean and chapter of Rochester.

The vicarage, one of the best in Kent, is valued in the king's books 12*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.* The vicar has a pension of 8*l.* per annum from the exchequer as an augmentation; out of which he pays 12*s.* if he receives it himself, and 20*s.* if by another. The vicarage-house is elegant, but unfortunately without any glebe. There are living three former vicars: Dr. Markham archbishop of York, who built much to the house; Dr. North bishop of Winchester, who also resided here; the Rev. William Nance, A. M., who spent 500*l.* in building to, and improving the vicarage; the present incumbent is the Rev. John Benson, D. D., prebendary of Canterbury. The learned North Briton, Dr. John Balcanquall, successively dean of Rochester and Durham, who represented the church of Scotland in the synod of Dort, was vicar of Boxley, which he resigned in 1640, and sunk under the church's and his own misfortunes in 1645. His son, Walter Balcanquall, A. M., succeeded him, but resigned in 1646.

In Boxley parish is far the greater part of Penenden-heath, generally called Pick-
enden-

enden-heath, at the conquest Pinnedenna-heath; the remainder of it is in Maidstone parish. Here on the north side, in a very humble shed, is held the county court, monthly; and at elections for the county here the sheriff assembles the meeting, as he does for the election of coroners, but generally adjourns them to Maidstone, unless the former are contested, as unhappily has been frequently the case. A more brilliant assembly can scarce be supposed; large capacious booths are at such times built near for the accommodation of the candidates, and those employed by them. Opposite to this in Maidstone parish, on a very rising ground, is a gallows for the execution of criminals.

As a central place Penenden-heath is convenient and commodious for county meetings. The most celebrated assemblage was in 1076, when William the Conqueror commanded his nobles, and other persons of consequence, to hear the allegations brought against his turbulent, avaricious half-brother, Odo bishop of Bayeux, and earl of Kent, so often mentioned. Goisfrid bishop of Constance represented the sovereign; Lanfranc archbishop of Canterbury pleaded the cause of the oppressed church, as well against the rapacity of Odo as the encroachments of Hugh Montfort, and Ralph de Curva Spina, or Crookthorne: the matter was solemnly pleaded by the head of the Anglican church, and as boldly defended by the imperious Odo: many of the greatest and wisest men in the kingdom attended, both Anglo-Saxons and Normans; especially such who were barons of the sovereign and the archbishop, or tenants of the latter; at the head of whom, under the bishop of Constance, were Richard de Tonebridge, Hugh de Montfort, though complained of, William de Arsic, and Hamo, the vicecomes or sheriff of Kent; as persons who could give the best intelligence, and whose disinterestedness was equally known. Ernest and Agelric, bishops of Rochester and Chester, assisted at the tribunal; the latter was a very wise man, and extremely well versed in the English laws; on account of his great age he was brought in a waggon! After a trial of three days the archbishop obtained the most ample justice.

Some Roman antiquities have been discovered in this parish. At Grove an urn was found in 1711, near the vein of fuller's earth; and several other of these funeral remains, with coins and other relics, have been dug up near Vintners and Goddard's hill; at the latter there are vast stones set up like those at Horsted. February 17, 1790, was buried Ann Pilcher, aged 100 years and eight months: an antiquity of another kind.

In this parish are these plants, which are rarely seen—*borago minor silvestris*, small white bugloss, or German madwort;—*scopyllum angustifolium glabrum*, smooth, narrow-leaved thyme;—*buxus*, the box-tree, which flourishes abundantly in the woods;—*stellaria fanicula major*, ladies' mantle.

D E T L I N G.

THE parish of Detling, anciently written Detlinges, to the east of Boxley, is a sequestered spot, in the road from Maidstone to Sittingborne. There is little here to please, being upon the barren chalk, and embosomed in its own brushwood, affording many native yews, and a profusion of columbines. The want of rural beauties is amply compensated by health, the first of blessings.

This was also a part of the immense possessions of Odo, but regained by the legal owners, the metropolitans of Canterbury. A family residing here were called de Detling, until they changed their name to Brampton, an heiress of whom took it to the At Townes, and their heir general to the Lewknors, who alienated the manor to the Woodvilles, one of whom being attainted by Richard III. Brakenbury obtained it of him; Richard Lewknor, Esq., received it from Henry VII., probably because his family had retained some estates here after they had disposed of the manor; his sole daughter and heir took the whole to George Hills, whose two daughters and coheirs conveyed it to the families of Martin and Vincent: since then the manor has been divided, one part being called East, the other West court.

East-court, after various transfers, was purchased by Francis Foote, of Veryan, in Cornwall, Esq., whose descendant, George-Talbot-Hatley Foote, Esq., now owns both this and West-court; his father, Benjamin-Hatley Foote, Esq., having purchased the latter of the heirs of Thomas Borrett, of Shoreham, in Kent, Esq., one of the prothonotaries of the common pleas. Mr. Foote holds a court baron for the manor of Detling, which is paramount to that of Henkhurst, in Staplehurst.

Detling, in the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Sutton, has a small church, once a chapel of ease to Maidstone, standing on the south-west end of the village, anciently Polley-street, from the Polley or Polhill family, who still have lands here called Polley Fields. The church is exempt from the jurisdiction of the archdeacon of Canterbury. The vicarage is a discharged living of the certified clear
yearly

yearly value of 30%; it has been thrice augmented, which makes an addition of 16%. The incumbent is the Rev. Denny-Martin Fairfax, D. D., who resides in Leeds-castle.

This parish is remarkable for the women bringing twin children; but the following is a very singular increase—Ann, the wife of Thomas Smith, clerk of this parish, had three children; a daughter born alive at four o'clock in the afternoon of Thursday, June 20, 1661; on the following Sunday at five o'clock in the morning a still-born daughter, and at four o'clock in the afternoon a son: the first and last, with the mother, lived. It is observable that this parish and Thurnham should have so many more double births than the neighbouring ones, in proportion to their population.

L O O S E.

TO the south of Maidstone is Loose, anciently Hlose, or Lose, from the Anglo-Saxon hlofan, to lose, from its stream losing itself at Brishing, and running from thence subterraneously for near half a mile, rising again at the quarries in the eastern extremity of the parish. Loose is the most romantic spot in this part of the kingdom, and from its resemblance has the name of the English Spa. It is every way a most agreeable place; its mills for making paper, grinding of corn, and fulling, with its tan-yards, make what seems formed for retirement a busy scene. The parish is finely wooded, and the river and springs give it a profusion of water. Agriculture is no where better understood, nor practised to more advantage; its pasturage adds much to the general diversity of its scenery.

There are few places whose history can be traced so high as Loose. Ethelwulf, the Anglo-Saxon monarch, in 832 gave it to Sueta, then a widow: she and her daughter presented it to the priory of Christ-church, in Canterbury, which allotted its income to purchase clothing for their fraternity. It had free warren, courtsleet and baron, which latter are still retained, and where boroughers are elected for Wanshurst, Falksheath, and Pattenden, in the Weald. At the Reformation Henry VIII. gave it to the dean and chapter of Rochester. John Penfold, Esq., is lessee, as have been his wife's relations the Crispes or Cripps, for a considerable time. Mr. Penfold resides here, having a most highly cultivated farm, elegantly arranged, uniting taste with utility.

A late very elaborate writer thinks there was another manor, which once belonged to the Freminghams, who left it to the Pimpes ; but of this little is satisfactory.

The seat of Salt's-place, once the Bufkins, is now possessed by the Rev. Dr. Denny-Martin Fairfax, whose ancestors the Martins obtained it by their descent from them ; at present the house is unoccupied. William Post, Esq., resides at Hale-place in this parish, once called le Hayle. It is of considerable antiquity, as its gateway evinces ; but the house has been new-fronted.

This parish, in the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Sutton, has an ancient church, dedicated to All Saints, once a chapel of ease to Maidstone. The great tithes belong to the see of Canterbury, by a grant from Elizabeth, to whom they came as part of the possessions of the college of priests in Maidstone. The living is discharged : archbishop Juxon, and Mr. Beale, a rich Hamburgh merchant, a native of Loose, augmented it ; but still the stipend is far inadequate to the duty. The present curate is the Rev. Denny-Martin Fairfax, D. D. In the church-yard is perhaps the oldest and the largest yew-tree in England.

L I N T O N.

LINTON, to the south of Loose, on the opposite side of Cock's-heath, was anciently Lyllynton ; in Latin, Lilintuna, i. e. lytlan, small, and stane, a stone, from its quarries of stone. It is chiefly in the Weald ; the view from hence towards that district is most picturesque, and inferior in richness to no woodland view in the island. The extensive common called Cock's-heath, part within this parish, is elevated, dry, and open, consequently well selected for encampments ; there have been several :—that of 1778 was the largest ; 15,000 men were stationed here, yet only two-thirds of the whole was covered with tents : the remains of these encampments are yet very discernible, but gradually wear out. Linton is famous for its hops, which resist the periodical blights better than most other situations. The road crosses the river at Style bridge.

This place is not mentioned in the Domesday survey, owing, it may be supposed, to its manor being within that of East Farleigh, except a small part which Loose claims over it. The tenants in fee of the former hold in free soccage.

Linton's-place, once Capel's-court, so called from the at-Capells, or de Capella family, who resided at Capel's-court, in Ivechurch, in the Marsh : they disposed
of

of it in Henry's IV.'s reign to Richard Bayfden, whose descendants in that of Elizabeth sold it to the Maney's, deservedly for their loyalty created baronets; from them by purchase it went in Charles II.'s reign to Sir Francis Withens: Catherine his sole daughter and heir took it successively to her husbands Sir Thomas Twifden, Bart., and brigadier-general George Jocelyn; he disposed of it to the Mann family, one of whom took down the old mansion of Capel's-court, and built a small neat seat, which is very peculiarly situated, its lower stories being not seen from Cock's-heath, but to the Weald exhibits a good front. It is now possessed by Sir Horace Mann, Bart., but inhabited by Edward Mann, Esq.

The Welldifhs's had for many years an estate here, several of whom are buried in the church, descended from one who had been huntsman to William the Norman, distinguished alike for his exploits in the chase and in arms; their estate, purchased by the Maney family, went with their other estates in this parish.

Linton has an alms-house for four families, built and endowed by the Maney's, but rebuilt and augmented in 1749 by Robert Mann, Esq.

This parish, in the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Sutton, has a church dedicated to St. Nicholas, a small, but very neat edifice, rich in monuments, especially of the Maney's and Manns, with their alliances: also of the Tokes, Richs's, and others. In the church-yard are several tombs, one of which is very ancient; at each end is a large cross; it has no inscription. The monument against the south wall in the body of the church of various marbles, with an urn in an arched recess, adorned with fine Gothic ornaments, is worthy the taste of the late lord Orford, who erected it. The inscription is,

“ GALFREDO MANN,
Amicissimo optimo,
Qui obiit Dec. xx. MDCCCLVI.
Ætatis suæ L.
Horatius Walpole
P.”

Here also was buried Sir Horatio Mann, Bart., knight of the Bath, who had for forty-six years resided at Florence as his majesty's envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to the grand ducal court of Tuscany, and where he died November 6, 1786; his body being brought to England, was conveyed to this place with vast pomp.

The

The vicarage, in the gift of Sir Horace Mann, who is lay-impropriator, is valued at 7*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* ; the Rev. Robert Foote, A. M., is the present incumbent.

Lunaria, or small moon-wort, grows on Cock's-heath in this parish.

E A S T F A R L E I G H.

EAST, or Great Farleigh, as Leland calls it, to the north-west of Linton, is two miles from Maidstone, and rich in plantations of hops, apples, cherries, and filberts. Great part of Cock's-heath lies in this parish; the Medway is the opposite boundary; the best bridge upon the river, except Rochester, is here.

Edgiva, the third and last queen of Edward the elder, whom she survived forty years, and mother of Edmund and Edred, two other of our Anglo-Saxon monarchs, in 961 gave this place to the monastery of Christ-church, in Canterbury, free of every secular service, except repairing bridges and building castles. At the dissolution Henry VIII. gave the manor to Sir Thomas Wyat, whose attainure restored it to the crown, where it still remains, and the duke of Leeds holds it under a fee-farm rent of 10*s.* During the Usurpation colonel Gibbon possessed it.

Court-lodge, the chief manor, with all the demesne lands, containing about 200 acres, was granted to Sir John Baker, after Wyat's attainure, to hold *in capite* by knight's service; being left to his second son, he devised the estate to the far-famed Sir Richard Baker, who has chronicled such extraordinary tales, and published other works, long consigned to oblivion: this unhappy knight died in the Fleet-prison, February 18, 1644-5, having disposed of this estate to Sir Francis Fane, of Burston, in Hunton, one of which family sold it to Mr. John Amhurst, the occupier of the land; the descendant of his brother, Stephen Amhurst, of West Farleigh, gent., is the owner of this estate: the ruinous mansion has long been inhabited only by cottagers.

Gallants, a manor, once belonging to a branch of the Colepepers, who held it of the prior of Christ-church, in Canterbury; went from them to the Ropers, afterwards ennobled. Catherine, the daughter of Christopher lord Teynham, took it to the Sheldons: the widow of the last of them conveyed it in marriage to her second husband, William Jones, M. D.; their daughters and coheirs, Mary and Ann, with their husbands Lock Rollinson, of Oxfordshire, Esq., and Thomas Ruffel, have united to dispose of it to Mr. Israel Lewis, of Hackney. The

manor-

manor-house has long been let to the cultivators of the land : some remains of its ancient state appear in the Gothic door-cases and windows, cased with ashlar stone : the walls are chiefly of flint.

Pimpe's-court, anciently the seat of the Pimpes, who held under the Clares earls of Gloucester, an heiress of these Pimpes took it to Sir John Rainsford, who alienated it to Sir Henry Ifley ; he disgavelled it in Edward VI.'s reign, but lost both the estate and his life by attainure. Queen Mary gave it to Sir John Baker, whose descendant sold it in the end of Charles II.'s reign to Thomas Floyd, of Gore-court, in Otham, Esq., whose descendant sold it to the Brownes : their heir general carried it to the Holdens, the last of whom devised it to his widow, with remainder to his nephew Vechell, a minor, residing in Cambridgeshire.

There is a seat here which has about twenty acres of land belonging to it, long possessed by the Goddens ; the sole heir of one of them in the reign of Charles II. took it to the Darbys ; the last of whom, Mr. John Darby, leaving no issue, devised this estate to Mary his widow, daughter and one of the two coheirs of captain Elmstone, of Egerton ; she remarrying to Mr. James Drury, he came, resided, and died here ; his widow makes it her seat : their sole daughter and heir Elizabeth is now the widow of the late John Corral, of Maidstone, gent., in whom the remainder vests. It is worthy remark, that except a younger branch of the Clerkes, of Wrotham, Mrs. Drury is the only person above the station of a farmer that has been known to reside in this parish for two centuries.

The parish is a peculiar of Canterbury, though in the fee of Rochester and deanry of Shoreham. The church is a large, handsome, Gothic building, neatly pewed, through the care of the late vicar, the Rev. Ezekiel Paul de la Douespe, who also was a great benefactor to the living, by expending at least 500*l.* in building to the vicarage-house. There are two monuments, one to the memory of a Colepeper, in the north wall of the great chancel, where the arms of that family are visible ; and another in Pimpe's chancel to that of Margaret de Cobham, wife of Sir William de Pimpe, who died in 1337, but no inscription is visible upon either of them : some grave-stones are in this chancel which have had brass plates, and in the east window of it three shields of arms and E. P. : this was formerly the chapel of the blessed Mary. There are two very ancient grave-stones, with a cross, one also with a chalice upon it, probably laid over former vicars : the arch of the church leading from the tower or belfry is round and of zigzag work, which shows its antiquity.

In

In the church-yard is a very small grave-stone, much defaced, inscribed—"Here lieth the body of Margaret Coomber, a maid; she was barbarously murdered by William Godden, March 14th, 1671, aged sixty years." This unfortunate woman was killed in a wood since called Gibbet wood; the malefactor was executed, and his body hung in Dane-street.

The great tithes and glebe, consisting of forty acres of land, were given to the college at Maidstone, and at its dissolution were granted by the crown to the Fanes, and are, by the entailure of John earl of Westmorland, now the property of lord Le Despenfer. The patronage of this vicarage, valued in the king's books at 6*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*, is in the crown; the late vicar let it for 160*l.*: the tithe of wheat and other grain growing upon what is called garden spots, is due to the vicar; but there is no glebe. The present incumbent is the Rev. Henry Freind, who has much improved the vicarage-house.

E A S T B A R M I N G.

THE parish of East Barming is next to Maidstone, and exactly opposite to a part of East and West Farleigh, the river dividing them. Its ancient name was Barmeling, from its moist situation, having many springs, which forming rills, descend into the river, one so considerable, at the conquest, and for some ages afterwards, as to turn a mill. It gradually rises from the Medway, and to the west ends in wood. The spring tides came up to St. Helen's before the river was made navigable.

Every writer speaks with enthusiasm of the delightfully cultivated scenery that presents itself: here is nothing rude; nothing to excite awe; no terrific, craggy mountain; no cataract to stun the wondering passenger; all is gentleness, serenity, and pleasure. In the valley, the Medway winds its silent, deep, and silvery stream; the trickling rills, bursting from their rocky beds, glide into and swell the river as it passes; the luxuriant meadows, bespangled with many a beautiful flower fringing its banks; the fine hanging woods of spreading oaks or lofty elms, terminating in the whitened church, and elegantly tapered spire, are conspicuous to a great extent, owing to the curve of the valley; and these, added to the picturesque wooden bridge of St. Helen, the beautiful village, the handsome residences of its gentry, the good houses of the farmers, and the neat dwellings of the cottagers, render it the most charming spot in this enchanting valley: no wonder

then that they boast that as Kent is the garden of England, so Barming is that of Kent. Other parts of the county are healthy or wealthy, but this envious spot happily unites both; for the air is excellent, its waters extremely pure, and the cultivation is more varied and richer than any other spot in the kingdom of the same dimensions. This parish has most rapidly increased in improvement and population within the present century.

The turnpike road from Maidstone to Tunbridge runs through this district over what is called Barming, a century ago Longsole heath, and where, when the last encampment was upon Cock's-heath, there was "a flying" one. The road formerly went up North-street.

There was for a great many centuries a ferry at St. Helen's, at the bottom of the declivity of the hill.

The manor of East Barming was held by Alret in the reign of the Confessor; the Norman conqueror gave it to Richard de Tonebrige, whose descendants, the earls of Clare, Gloucester, and Hertford, had the lordship. It was afterwards divided between the Peyforers and Kents, each holding of the manor of Clare. The heirs of the former appear to have possessed a manor in East Barming now known by the name of St. Helen's, because given to the Benedictine nunnery of St. Helen, which stood in Bishopsgate-street, in London. It certainly did not comprise the whole parish: that once manor has long ceased to be one, from there having never been any court held for at least a century and an half, nor probably long before.

The monastery of St. Helen's at the dissolution was given by Henry VIII. to Sir Richard Williams alias Cromwell, great grandfather of the protector Oliver; but this estate was granted in 1541 by that monarch to Richard Callohill to hold *in capite* by knight's service: after many alienations it settled in the Botelers of Teston. At the death of Sir Philip Boteler, Bart., this manor, in the division of his estates, fell to the share of lady dowager Folkstone, who dying in 1782, it came to her only son, the Hon. Philip Bouverie, who has taken the name of Pusey: this gentleman, so well known for his distinguished virtues, now owns it.

Court barons are regularly held here, and the rolls are perfect since the year 1609-10. The court lodge near St. Helen's bridge, with its dove-cote, were standing a few years ago; a small cottage formed out of a part of one of the offices, only remains of the whole.

The other moiety of the estate was held by Roger de Kent; which family, after some descents, sold it to the Freminghams, who by will gave it to the Pimpes; and from thence it went to the unfortunate Sir Henry Isley, who disgavelled, and afterwards lost it by attainure; when queen Mary granted it *in capite* by knight's service, to Sir John Baker, her attorney-general, one of whose descendants in Charles II.'s reign alienated it to Henry Golding, gent., who dying in 1674 devised it to Henry his eldest son and heir, who disposed of this estate between the years 1696 and 1698 to Thomas Stringer, Esq., who before 1699 sold them to — Spencer; he passed them away to the ancestor of their present possessor John Amhurst, gent. There is no mansion-house belonging to this estate; but there evidently has been one on the east side of the cemetery. Before this estate came into queen Mary's hands, it was successively held of the Clares earls of Clare, Gloucester, and Hertford; the Staffords dukes of Buckingham, and the Rainsfords.

Hall-place, a reputed manor; the mansion, now little more than a cottage, was anciently of consequence sufficient to give name to the family of at-Halls, who before the end of Edward III.'s reign had disposed of the greatest part of the estate to the Colepepers, of Preston, in Aylesford, and the remainder to the Clives, one of whom in the reign of Henry IV. alienated his share to the Colepepers also, and the whole was soon after conveyed to Sampson Mascall, descended from those of Mascall, in Brenchley, in Suffex. In the year 1656 the Rev. Richard Webbe, rector of the parish, purchased it, and built near the manor-house a handsome seat: his descendant in 1726 conveyed it to Peter Smart, gent., father of the poet, who died here; his widow and their children alienated it to the elegant and refined John Cale, Esq. This gentleman left to Hertford college, Oxford, his fine library; 60*l.* to remove the books, and the interest of 1000*l.* East India annuities to a librarian; 200*l.*, the interest of which was to be laid out in bread and clothes for the poor of Barming: to the protestant schools in Ireland, 200*l.*: to the discharge of prisoners confined for small debts, 200*l.*: to the society for the relief of hurt and wounded seamen in the merchants' service, 200*l.*—This learned and valuable man died in 1777, and left this estate to the heirs of the late Thomas Prowse, of Axbridge, in Somersetshire, Esq., who were the lady of Sir John Mordaunt, of Walton, in Warwickshire, Bart., and her sister: they united to convey these premises to John Amhurst, gent., who immediately despoiled the fine plantations and gardens of
all

all the exotic trees, shrubs, and flowers, and the seat has for some time been occupied by persons one degree above cottagers ; the consequences may easily be judged.

Home-stall, a handsome modern seat, with about forty acres of land, was conveyed to captain Nicholas Amhurst, in 1709, by — Daves, Esq. Mr. Amhurst left it to his two sons, Nicholas and Edward ; they united to dispose of it to James Allen, gent., the husband of their sister Jane ; he built this seat about 1730, but sold it soon after to Arthur Harris, Esq., who devised it to Mrs. Alicia Harris, and at her death it came to their youngest brother Thomas Harris, Esq. ; he dying unmarried in 1769 left it to Mrs. Mary Dorman, a lady of most estimable character, who now resides here. The remainder is limited by Mr. Harris's will to the family of Mumford, of Sutton-at-Hone.

There is another handsome seat, to which is annexed about the same quantity of land. It was in the preceding century the property of the Fletchers, the last of whom, after disgracing himself by every worthless action, quitted this place, having sold this estate to Thomas Whitacre, gent. ; he devised it to his second son John Whitacre, Esq., who rebuilt the seat unfortunately upon the ancient scite ; it should have been set a little north, and fronting the beautiful valley below ; at his death the reversion vested in his nephew, Thomas Whitacre, of Trottescliffe, Esq. It is now occupied by William Roffe, gent.

In the village is a neat white house, built by the Rev. James Mashborne, a former rector of this parish. The conveyance not having been executed by Mr. Fletcher, who had sold the land, he took advantage of an act of Charles II., and obliged the unfortunate clergyman to repurchase the estate, and pay for the house he had built, which necessitated him to sell the whole to Mr. Whitacre, whose tenant he continued until his death. His successor, the Rev. Thomas Pickering, also resided in this house during the whole of his incumbency.

There is another house upon Barming heath ; the ground, with a considerable portion of land, chiefly in Maidstone parish, was sold by Mr. Fletcher to Mr. Samuel Steed, upon which the latter erected this house ; but Fletcher having previously and clandestinely mortgaged it, Mr. Steed was obliged to pay off the incumbrance. He left it to his widow for life, the remainder to his niece Miss Catherine Higgins ; she and her husband alienated the estate to Mr. James Ferguson, of the borough of Southwark, who has much improved, and now makes it his country residence.

Barming is in the diocese of Rochester, and deanry of Malling. Its church,

dedicated to St. Margaret, is a small Gothic structure, extremely neat without ; its elegant spire is the leading object around. The church-yard is embosomed in fine elms, and the road from the street is peculiarly striking and pleasing. “ The present rector, about twelve years ago, at his own expense, entirely repaired and ornamented the chancel ; he gave also a new altar, pulpit-cloth, and cushion.” There are no monuments within the church, but many in the cemetery : that erected over the remains of Thomas Harris, Esq., of various coloured marbles, cost near 300/.

This rectory, anciently in the patronage of the priory of Leeds, is now in the crown, and is valued in the king’s books at 12*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.*, and charged with an yearly pension of 2*s.* to the church of Rochester, once payable to Leeds priory. The glebe contains eighty-three acres. The parsonage-house, close to the boundary of Maidstone parish, and nearly one mile from the church, is delightfully situated upon the declivity of the hill, commanding an extensive prospect, and the land beautifully disposed by the hand of nature. Mr. Webbe, rector of Barming, having been robbed, deserted the house, and for nearly a century and an half it was occupied by farmers or cottagers. The present rector, the Rev. Mark Noble, F. A. S., well known for his various publications, resides in, and has lately almost rebuilt it—“ And by his judicious management and improvements,” says Mr. Hasted, “ he has made this benefice, perhaps, one of the most desirable in the diocese.” Not much less than 20,000 trees and shrubs have been planted by him upon the glebe.

There were formerly two crosses in this parish ; probably one erected by the priory of Leeds, the other by the nunnery of St. Helen’s ; the places where they stood still retain the names of the upper cross, and lower cross ; they were no doubt taken down at the Reformation. It is singular that the stones in which each of them were set remain near the places where they originally had been.

In the spring of 1797, in grubbing up an hedge in the lane, at a small distance from the parsonage, were found seven Roman urns, buried near each other, and entire when found ; but the workmen broke them, in hopes of finding something valuable within ; they contained a great quantity of human ashes, which bore evident marks of fire. Some of the urns were black, like Wedgwood’s ware, with rims, and of elegant workmanship ; others were of a dull red earth : both had evidently been turned in a lathe. The workmen said, that when entire they were

near two feet high, and, from the quantity of ashes, they must have been large. There was part of a man's skull found near them, and a little farther off a great quantity of bones placed together, but without any urn; these immediately went to dust when exposed to the air. We agree with a gentleman who supposes that these remains point out that this was the Roman highway, which led to Oldborough, in Ightham.

About five or six years ago, in the next piece of ground to that part where these urns were discovered, vast numbers of the bones of men and horses were disturbed in digging for the quarry stone; they were laid in regular rows, and probably there are many more, as they still continued to be seen as far as the earth was removed. Some of these carcases had been laid upon the bare rock; pieces of decayed leather were taken up, but nothing else; so that it cannot with certainty be adduced at what period the bodies of these persons were laid here; yet as the leather was found with them, we cannot suppose it to have been so far back as the Roman period, and consequently that they had no reference to the urns, though it is singular that they should be so near to each other. It is evident the unfortunate fell in battle, by the horses having been buried near them. As the Kentish men defended East Farleigh bridge in 1648 against general Fairfax, and many fell before they forced the passage in their way to Maidstone, it is reasonable to suppose that these unhappy men were victims to our domestic wars; this field being close to a lane leading from the village of Barming to East Farleigh bridge confirms the conjecture: a gold ring of ancient make was found at no great distance. Part of a human skeleton was taken up in 1789 in altering the road at the west end of Barming-street, leading to Teston, and nine bodies were discovered in East Farleigh, probably of fugitives after the skirmish at the bridge; a human skull was found, part of the skeleton of one of these fugitives.

Barming-heath is famed for its common camomile; and the great mullein grows higher there, and in all the east part of the parish, than is known elsewhere; by cultivation it becomes a very beautiful plant. The wild honeyfuckle there twines round every bush in a profusion not to be imagined.

We shall quit this delightful and interesting parish with observing, that the Rev. John Harris, afterward D. D., the author of a history of Kent, was some little time rector of Barming, but never resided in, and soon resigned it.

WEST BARMING, OR BARNJETT.

THIS diminutive district is variously written in ancient deeds, West Barming, Baringjet alias Parinjet, an evident corruption for Barmingjet, as the *Registrum Roffense* gives it; the *Textus Roffensis*, Bearmlingetes. It seems a continuation of Barming, containing only the court-lodge and a cottage.

Ranulf de Columbels held “Bermelie” at the conquest under Odo bishop of Bayeux; at his disgrace it was given to the Crevequers, of whom the de Barmelinges held it; they passed it to the Freminghams, who devised it to the Pimpes; from whom coming to Sir Henry Isley, he disgavelled and lost it by attainure; since it has been invariably united to the estate lying at the west part of Barming. John Amburst, gent., has altered, and resides in the court-lodge. The place is capable of great improvement, and might, in the hands of taste, add greatly to the surrounding scenery, the sweep down to the Medway being fine.

Here was anciently an house of prayer; in the *Textus Roffensis* it was called a chapel, and as such paid chrism rent to the mother church of the diocese, afterwards esteemed a parish of itself; but incapable of supporting a rector in Henry VII.’s reign, it was annexed to Nettlested, then also in the patronage of the Pimpes.

The rectors of Nettlested are presented, inducted, and instituted to Nettlested, with the chapel of Barmingjett annexed, yet receive no emolument from the latter. The Hon. Philip-Bouverie Pusey has a small estate in this now almost extra-parochial place, still called the parsonage farm; he also claims a part of the manor.

The chapel of Barnjett stood near the court-lodge; a hay barn now marks the place. In the time of Lambarde it was defecrated: after serving successively as a dwelling, a carpenter’s workshop, and a kennel for dogs, it was taken down, and the stones conveyed to the end of Teston bridge to raise the road. Its cemetery was excavated for quarry stone, until the labourers desisted from a sense of decency, a commendable trait of character.

 LARKFIELD HUNDRED.

THIS hundred lies to the north of Maidstone. Its orthography is entirely changed. In *Domesday-book* it is written Laurochesfel, since Laverkefeld. It contains the parishes of Allington, Ditton, Snodland, Padlesworth, Birling, Ryarsh,

Ryars, Leyborne, East Malling, West Malling, Ofham, Addington, and Trottescliffe, on the west side the Medway; and Aylesford, Burham, and Woldham, on the east of that river. Aylesford and West Malling are exempt from the constables of Larkfield hundred; the former being ancient demesne, the other a separate liberty, has its own constable. Aylesford has a small part within the hundred of Maidstone. Hunton and Horfmonden have some parts of their parishes within this hundred.

A L L I N G T O N.

TO the north-west of Maidstone, on the opposite bank of the Medway, is Allington, the Elentun of Domesday-book. It is a very small parish, and, except its castle, uninteresting.

It is most probable that the Anglo-Saxons, at an early period of their government, had a castle here; the original one was destroyed by the all-desolating Danes. It became part of the domain of Ulnoth or Alnoth, fourth son of earl Godwin, and brother of Harold II., called in Domesday-book, Cilt or illustrious. The Conqueror gave the castle to Odo bishop of Bayeux; at his fall it was transferred to another relation, William earl of Warren, in Normandy, whom William II. created earl of Surry; he rebuilt the castle according to the improved taste of the Normans.

This nobleman afterwards passed it to lord Fitz Hugh; his daughter married Sir Giles Allington, whose posterity possessed it until the latter end of Henry III.'s reign, when Sir Stephen de Penchefer, constable of Dover-castle, and warden of the cinque-ports, obtained it. Much attached to Allington, he sued for, and obtained Edward I.'s grant of a weekly market, and an yearly fair for three days, on the vigil, the feast of St. Lawrence, and the day after; also free warren, and leave to embattle the castle. The additions he made were so great, that he is often called the founder, and from him it was frequently named Allington-Penchefer.

At his death the castle was apportioned to Joan, the eldest of his two daughters and coheirs, who took it to the second branch of the Cobhams, whence it acquired the name of Allington-Cobham. In Edward IV.'s reign it went to the Brents; they alienated it to the Wyats, famed for their abilities, power, and wealth.

They were originally of Yorkshire. Sir Henry, who obtained Allington-castle, lost seventeen manors and his liberty, for attempting to dethrone Richard III. in

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favour of Henry earl of Richmond ; tradition says he was fed by a cat whilst in the Tower : the improbable tale is vouched for because puss is painted beside her master, and sometimes with a pigeon in her mouth :—had Richard wished his death, a cat would not have saved him. Is it not meant as an allegory ? Richard's minister, Catesby, was called “ the cat,” in the well-known distich,

“ The rat, the cat, and Lovel the dog,
Rule all England under an hog.”

At the accession of Henry VII. he was knighted, made a banneret, a knight of the Bath, and a privy counsellor ; he continued in favour with Henry VIII. He left at his death an only son, Sir Thomas Wyat, whom Leland calls, “ incomparabilis ;” Wood, “ the delight of the muses :” as an accomplished scholar, gentleman, soldier, and statesman, he had not his equal ; no wonder he was admired by the fascinating Ann Boleyn. Henry VIII. regarded him with jealousy. Appointed again ambassador to Spain, he died when only thirty-eight, of a fever occasioned by fatigue, at Falmouth, where he intended to embark. Allington owed much to his love, and the remains of his munificence still appear.

His eldest son, Sir Thomas Wyat the younger, distinguished as an ambassador, was learned and elegant, but rash, vain, and imprudent, which led him into a rebellion that ruined him, and involved his family, friends, and dependants, in great misfortunes. At his attainure this castle came to the crown : Elizabeth gave a lease of the whole to John Astley, Esq., master of her jewels ; she afterwards granted the castle, manor, and advowson of the church to his son Sir John Astley, at an annual rent of 100*l.* 2*s.* 7*d.* Sir John making Maidstone palace his residence, deserted and disparked Allington, leaving it to moulder away. The Astleys disposed of it in 1720 to the ancestor of its present possessor, lord Romney.

This ruin, so near the river, which would make a fine object in the landscape, is hidden by trees ; the remains are extensive ; one of the round towers is very large ; some parts are in good repair, and inhabited by an opulent farmer.

There are only two dwellings besides the castle in the parish, and those cottages,

Allington, in the diocese of Rochester, and deanry of Malling, has a church dedicated to St. Laurence, one of the meanest in the county. This place, from its privacy, was celebrated for the number of its weddings, until the elder protector deprived the clergy of the celebration of that ceremony. In this neglected, seques-

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tered church rest the remains of Sir Gyfford Thornhurst, Bart., who died December 16, 1627; Sir George Choute, Bart., whose death happened in 1721-2; and Sir Edward Austen, Bart., who died December 16, 1760. There are two of the rectors also buried here; and “ *Rodolphus Mabbe, generosus magister artium in academia Cantab. clericus et vicarius ecclesiæ de Graine Sepultus fuit 28vo Augusti, 1649;*” he was married here September 28, 1647, to Ann Barham, of Canterbury. In the church-yard is a memorial inscribed, “ Here lieth James Drayton, apothecary, who died 9th September 1769, aged sixty-eight. Pray disturb not the dead.” Mr. Drayton was “ a most ingenious person, and an excellent botanist.” The rectory, always in the patronage of the owners of the castle, is of the clear certified value of 35*l.*; divine service is performed only once a month. The present rector is the Hon. and Rev. Jacob Marsham, D. D., deservedly beloved by a most extensive circle of friends.

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D I T T O N.

TO the west of Allington is Ditton, anciently Dictune, i. e. dic, a dyke, and ton, the usual termination of places. The London road to Maidstone passes through this small parish, chiefly consisting of woodland and hops; as does a stream, which finds its course to the Medway. There are only fourteen houses in Ditton.

The manors of Ditton, Brampton, and Siftlington, after being held by different possessors, at length settled in the family of Aldon, and were never again disjointed. Henry VIII. obtaining them by exchange they came to Sir Thomas Wrythe, or Wriothesley, earl of Southampton, and by sale to Sir Robert Southwell and Sir Thomas Pope, all conspicuous characters. In James I.'s reign they settled in the Boteler family, from whom they came to lady Folkstone, who left them to her only son, the Hon. Philip Bouverie, now Pusey.

Borough, more properly Brooke court, at the north extremity of the parish, has belonged to the Colepepers, Shakerleys, and other families, and since the reign of Charles II. to the ancestor of the present possessor, Sir John-Papillon Twisden, of Bradborne, Bart., who holds a court baron for this manor.

Ditton-place, a mansion where the Brewer family resided from early in James I.'s reign, until the beginning of this century, when it passed to the Goldings, the

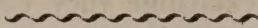


present owners. The large old seat of brick betrays symptoms of approaching ruin: the situation is very ill chosen.

This parish, in Rochester diocese, and Malling deanry, has a small church dedicated to St. Peter. Upon a brass plate in the chancel is, "*Orate p. aīa magist. Richardi legatte qui obiit Anno Dni M<sup>o</sup>cccc<sup>o</sup>lxxx i<sup>o</sup> die men. Junij.*" Beneath the effigies of a man in armour, upon another grave-stone near it, on a brass plate is, "Heare lyethe the boodye of Rowland Shakerley, gent., sonne and heire of Franncys Shakerley, of Brooke-courte, within the paryshe of Ditton, Esquier, whiche Rowland beyng fellowe of Grayes Inne, deceased, the xxii of June, in the year of our Lord 1576, and had this memoryall of his deathe made by a yong gentlewoman as an argument of her inseparable good meaning towards him." Another plate is lost; probably it contained poetry. There are many memorials of the Brewer family in the church.

The patronage, anciently in the priory of Leeds, is now vested in the earl of Aylesford. The rectory, valued in the king's books at 11*l.* 15*s.*, pays 2*s.* to the dean and chapter of Rochester. The ruins of the parsonage-house are still visible; it was burnt some years ago. The late incumbent was the Rev. Samuel Bishop, the poetic head-master of Merchant Taylors' school; the present one is the Rev. Richard Warde, vicar of Yalding.

This parish, as well as the three next described, anciently contributed towards the repair of the fifth pier of Rochester bridge. The beautiful mountain-ash is found in great profusion in Ditton woods.



## S N O D L A N D.

TO the north of Ditton is Snodland; in Domesday-book written Efnoland; in the Textus Roffensis, Snoddingland and Snodiland. It is little known, and less valued as a residence, being low, retired, and gloomy; unwholesome, from its salt marshes, and sterile, from its chalk-flinty hills. The great road from Stroud to Larkfield passes through the village. On the south is a stream, which coming from Berling turns a paper-mill; at the Conquest there were three mills. Another brook rises near Mr. May's house, and running half a mile, glides into the Medway.

The manor of Snodland was given by Birtrick, an Anglo-Saxon gentleman, to  
the



the priory of St. Andrew, in Rochester. The quantity and value of the land specified in a taxation made in the prelate of Gundulph, who sat from 1077 to 1107, when it became the property of the see of Rochester, is stated thus:—Holeberge, now Hollorow, dependent upon the manor of Halling, contained 197 acres of arable land, valued at 4*d.* per acre at most, having no marle; fourteen acres of meadow, six of salt pasture, three lately made fresh, each at 8*d.* per acre; and the mill at 20*s.* Hamo Noble, called de Hythe, the munificent bishop of Rochester, in 1323 rebuilt the mill at Holbergh, with timber brought from Perstede at the expense of 10*l.* The bishops of Rochester, we may suppose, resided here, having then a park at Snodland.

The court-lodge was long the residence of the Palmers, one of whom married the daughter of Fitzsimond, whose epitaph was—

“ Palmers al our faders were  
I, a Palmer, livyd here,  
And travylled till worne wythe age,  
I endyd this worlds pylgrimage;  
On the blyst Assention day.  
In the cherful month of May,  
A thousand wyth foure hundryd seven,  
And took my journey hense to Heven.”

The Palmers bore in their arms palmers' or pilgrims' scrips. Mr. John May, the present owner, resides in a handsome new-built house.

Veles alias Snodland, in the reign of Edward I. was held as half a knight's fee of the see of Rochester, by several families as coparceners; at length it became united, and passing through many families settled in that of May.

Holloway-court gave name and residence to a family, many of whom are buried in this church. The Tilghams were in possession of it in Henry IV.'s reign, and a part of the estate remained with them until 1680, when the ancestor of lord Romney purchased it: the other division belongs to Mr. May.

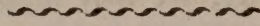
This parish is in the diocese and deanry of Rochester. Its small mean church, dedicated to All Saints, as an appendant to the manor, is in the gift of the see of Rochester, and valued in the king's books at 20*l.* The Rev. Henry Wollaston is rector.

Notwithstanding the present appearance of Snodland, in ancient times it was very important. The hamlet of Holborow or Holborough, in the north part of the



parish, receives its name from having been the passage of the Romans to Scarborough on the opposite bank. An urn filled with ashes was found in digging chalk.

Sir John Marsham, Bart., and Sir Charles Bickerstaff, in the reign of James II., intending to supply the towns of Stroud, Rochester, and Chatham, with fresh water from Holborough-hill and its vicinity, cut a channel through Halling and Cuxton: difficulties arising after having taken it two miles, an act was procured, enabling them to pursue their scheme; but soon after it was abandoned, though promising much advantage to them, and those for whose use the waters were intended,



### PADLESWORTH, NEAR SNODLAND.

THIS small district, usually denominated Paulsford, to the west of Snodland, is written Pelleforde in Domesday-book, and Pædleswrtha in the Textus Roffensis. It has nothing to arrest the traveller's attention, the chalky soil being barren.

Godric held it before Hugo de Port; after the Conquest the manor was in Henry III.'s reign divided into shares, in which situation it long remained. Lord Romney holds it of the manor of Swanscombe, owing guard rent to the castle of Rochester. The court-lodge stands near the church.

Padlesworth, in Rochester diocese, and deanry of Malling, once esteemed a chapel of ease to Birling, is valued in the king's books at 3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*; the patronage always attended the manor. The remains of the church, built with flint and ashler quoin-stones, are now used as a barn.



### B I R L I N G.

TO the south-west of Padlesworth is Birling, about three miles square, having chalk and flints towards the hills, sandy but fertile in the south, which lies low. The parish, detached and sequestered, was long the residence of those great barons the Nevils, lords Abergavenny.

In Edward the Confessor's time Sbernbiga held it: in the reign of William I. Ralph de Curva Spina, corruptly Curbespine, who building a seat in the north part of the parish, made it his residence, anciently Comport, now Comfort park. This family, in Henry II.'s reign, was succeeded by Walkelin de Magminot, whose sister Alice took it to the de SAYS, afterwards barons; from them it came, with the title,



title, to the Herons, and the Clintons, afterwards styled lord Clinton and Say; by other females to that branch of the great Nevil family, who have been long barons, and are now earls of Abergavenny. Sir George Nevil lord Abergavenny, by his will dated June 4, 1535, expressing a desire to be buried here, the chancel of Birling became the dormitory of these noblemen. The last of them buried here was George lord Abergavenny, who died in 1666. The title then going to another branch, who retaining their partiality to their seat of Kidbrooke, near East Grinstead, in Suffex, Birling was deserted by its lords. Yet in remembrance of this seat of their ancestors, the late nobleman chose the title of viscount Nevil, of Birling, in Kent, making it second only to that of Abergavenny, now an earldom. In the parish register is one item of this branch of the family—"1727 the Right Honourable " George Nevill lord Abergavenny, was born June 24, 1727; his majesty king " George the Second, his grace Lionel duke of Dorset, and her grace the dutchess " of Newcastle, being sponsors." The old seat of Comfort, long neglected, is dis-  
parked, and reduced to a farm-house.

Birling, in the diocese of Rochester and deanry of Malling, has a very spacious, fine, Gothic church, dedicated to All Saints. Though so many of the illustrious Nevils lie in the chancel, there is not a single memorial of them, except one or two old helmets, and the irons upon which were placed guidons, and other funereal appendages. The very spacious chancel, larger than many churches, is well adapted for the reception of the superb monuments of the great. There is a fine brass effigy of one of their servants in the south aisle, inscribed, "Of your charite pray for the soule of Water Mylys, sum tyme Reseyvor vnto " my lord of Burgvenniey the whyche decefyd the xv day of Marche." Many gentry are mentioned in the registers, who probably were visitants at Comfort. The only monument is a mural one in the church, "To the memory of the Rev. " *Edward Holme*, late vicar of this parish, and founder of the two free schools of " *Leybourne* and *East Malling* in this county, who departed this life on the 7th " day of January 1782, aged seventy-one years. Nanny Holme, daughter of the " above *Edward Holme*: she died the 1st of January 1789, aged twenty-one years." The widow of this clergyman still resides in the vicarage-house.

This church, given to the priory of Bermondsey, at the dissolution of monastic institutions, was granted to the Nevils, ancestors of the earl of Abergavenny, who possesses the rectorial glebe and great tithes, with the patronage of the vicarage,  
valued



valued in the king's books at 6*l.* 9*s.* 4½*d.* The present incumbent is the Rev. William Humphry, who also holds Kempfing and Seal, both in Kent. The people here and in the vicinity still remember the prodigious strength of Mr. Hugh Pugh, a native of Wales, the preceding vicar to Mr. Holme.

In Oxfield, adjoining to the cemetery, in plowing, many foundations have, and still continue to be discovered; but no conjecture is hazarded of what buildings they are the scite.

### R Y A R S H.

RYARSH, pronounced Rash, is south of Birling; Domesday-book calls it Riefce, the Textus Roffensis, Reierfce. No place in Kent is less known or frequented; it is a sandy, sterile soil, but not unhealthy. The parish is long and narrow, without a single object to attract attention, though it has two villages, each bearing the same name.

Ryarsh was the estate of Alured in Edward the Confessor's reign; William the Norman gave it to his half-brother bishop Odo, of whom Hugh de Port held it; after the disgrace of that turbulent prelate it was granted to the family of Crescie. In Henry III.'s reign it went from them to the de Mowbrays: though the first of them was executed for treason, yet his descendants were restored in blood, enriched and ennobled, successively rising from barons Mowbray to earls of Nottingham and dukes of Norfolk, and hereditary earls marshal: at the failure of heirs male Ryarsh was conveyed to the ancestor of the earl of Abergavenny, who holds it of the manor of Swanscombe, by the tenure of contributing towards the guard of Rochester castle.

Carew's-court, now Callis-court, was the manor of the Carews of Beddington, in Surrey, until Nicholas Carew sold it to the Wattons, and they to the Walsinghams; from which family it passed by marriage to Sir Edward Austen, Bart., who devised it to John Amhurst, late of Boxley-abbey; and at his death, by virtue of the entail, it is become the property of captain John-Thomas Amhurst, and the family of Allen.

The manor of Halling, belonging to the see of Rochester, extended into this parish, where the bishops had a grange or farm-house.

Ryarsh, in the diocese of Rochester, and deanry of Malling, has a small, mean church,



church, originally dedicated to St. Lambert; in 1448 St. Martin was made the patron. The patronage is in the Bartholomews of Addington. This discharged vicarage is of the clear yearly certified value of 40/. The Rev. James Thurston, A. M., is the incumbent.

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L E Y B O R N E.

THE next parish to the north of Ryash is Leyborne, anciently Leleburne and Lilleborn, derived from lytlan, small; borne, brook; the stream which gives it name running along the south and east sides of it, and turning Leyborne mill. Though low, it is pleasanter than the neighbouring parishes, and fertile to a proverb, yet has only a few detached houses.

Turgis under earl Godwin was proprietor of Leyborne; at the Conquest Adam held it under bishop Odo; from him passing to the crown it was given to the de Arficks. A family next possessed the manor, who making this their seat, called themselves de Leyborne, and became of importance in this county. William de Leyborne, admiral, and constable of Pavenssey-castle, entertained Edward I. at this his castellated mansion. Thomas his son and heir died before him, leaving Juliana, an only daughter, heiress also to her grandfather; the estates she inherited were so great, that she was styled Infanta of Kent. The whole of those rich possessions went to her three husbands—John de Hastings, Thomas le Blount, and Sir William de Clinton, a younger son of the Clintons, of Maxtoke-castle, in Warwickshire; he rose to the greatest honours and employments, Edward III. creating him a baron by writ, earl of Huntingdon by patent, governor of Dover castle, warden of the cinque ports, and admiral of the seas from the entrance of the Thames westward; he was buried in the priory of Maxtoke, his foundation. Juliana surviving him, became a fourth time possessed of this manor, castle, and its demesnes, which she held until her death: her remains were buried, by her own request, in the church of St. Augustine, in Canterbury.

It is remarkable that a lady so greatly descended should have her estates escheat to the crown, no one being able to claim them either by direct descent, or by collateral alliance. The manor, castle, and advowson of Leyborne, by the piety of Edward III. and Richard II., became the property of the Cistercian monastery of St. Mary Graces, near the Tower. At the dissolution the two former were granted for other estates to the see of Canterbury: soon after Henry VIII. again obtained,

and

and exchanged them with the advowson, to Sir Edward North, a privy counsellor : since that time they have been possessed by several families. The Whitworths sold them to the father of their present owner, Sir Henry Hawley, Bart.

Leyborne castle is in part remaining : a modern house, once the residence of the Goldings, now a farm-house, is built within the castle walls, making a very singular appearance. The stone work at the chief entrance, with much of the circular towers on each side, and some detached parts of arches and walls, are visible : above the gate appears a machicolation, a contrivance to throw stones, boiling water, or melted lead, upon the heads of the besiegers. The writer has more than once traced its circumference, and from its remains, especially its ditch, decides, with Mr. Hausted, that it never could have been of the great extent another writer thinks. Mr. Ireland has made a very elegant and picturesque engraving of it—a difficult circumstance, where modern and antique unite : nothing can be more disgusting than to see a new-built house situated amidst the ruins of former ages, where the ancient makes so great a contrast : nothing is more opposite than the snug box, and the huge, massive, fortified residences of our warlike ancestors : it is like attempting to unite the elegantly flight ornament with the rich cumbrous dress of distant ages. The manor of Leyborne pays to the crown a fee-farm rent of *1*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.**, and still has its courts leet and baron.

The Grange, a mansion of the family of Quintin, who so early as the former part of the sixteenth century took the name of Oliver, which alone distinguishes them in the parish register ; probably in deeds it was written Oliver alias Quintin. The first who settled here was William Oliver, Esq. ; he died in 1561 : this seat went to his son William, his grandson Robert, and great grandson Robert Oliver, Esq., who was buried in the chancel of Leyborne with his ancestors : by Julian his wife he had ten children—Robert, who died an infant ; another Robert, buried here November 4, 1656, called in the register, “ the eldest and most accomplished son “ of Mr. Robert Oliver ;” Thomas Oliver, Esq., died in 1678 ; Barnham Oliver, in 1670 : Mary, Elizabeth, Judith, and Jane ; the first died single, the second a child ; of the other two no notice is taken : two others married, Julian to Edward Covert, gent. ; and Frances to Mr. John Stoell, of Rochester ; Julian, or, as Mr. Hausted calls her, Juliana, became, he says, sole heiress of the Grange. As the circumstance is curious, we shall transcribe the copy of the register of her marriage, performed by the civil magistrate—“ An intention of marriage betwixt Mr. Edward
I “ Covert,

“ Covert, and Mrs. Julian Oliver, both of this parish, was published three lords
 “ dayes, vid. the first day of November, the 8 of the same month, and the 15th
 “ of the same, after divine service, and no exception made thereunto: in witnesse
 “ whereof I have subscribed, John Cood, register of the parish of Leybourne.
 “ The aforesayd marriage was solemnized before me, in the presence of Robert
 “ Olyver, Esq., father of the said Julian, and John Covert, brother unto the sayd
 “ Edward, and Barnha^r Oliver, brother of the sayd Julian, uppon the 16th day of
 “ December, 1656. William James.” The issue of this marriage was an only
 daughter, who in like manner took the Grange to Henry Saxby; their son, captain
 William Saxby, made it his residence; but in 1724 sold it, with the manor and
 castle, to Francis Whitworth, Esq., who rebuilt the Grange in a very elegant
 manner, and laid out the grounds in the modern taste: he died in 1742, and was
 succeeded by his only son and heir, Sir Charles Whitworth, lieutenant-governor of
 Gravesend and Tilbury fort, father of Sir Charles Whitworth, knight of the Bath,
 envoy extraordinary and plenipotentiary at the court of Russia, who joining in the
 sale of the whole family estates in this parish, under sanction of an act of parlia-
 ment, conveyed them in 1776 to James Hawley, Esq., M. D. and F. R. S.: he
 died in 1777, leaving this feat, manor, castle, and advowson, to his only son, now
 Sir Henry Hawley, Bart., having been so created by his present majesty. Few unite
 greater good sense, elegance of manners, and urbanity, than Sir Henry: he is
 maternal nephew to the learned and scientific Sir Joseph Banks, Bart., knight of
 the Bath.

Leyborne is within the diocese of Rochester, and deanry of Malling. Its small
 church, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, is a very neat structure, both within
 and without; the place of sepulture of the Olivers, Saxbys, Whitworths, and Haw-
 leys. It once belonged to the abbey of St. Mary Grace, near the Tower; but since
 the Reformation has gone with the manor and castle. It is a rectory, valued in the
 king's books at 17*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, and possessing, besides its proper glebe, an estate of
 130 acres of land, lying at Comp, in Wrotham parish, where the ruins of a chapel
 still remain. The value of the rectory is 300*l.* The present incumbent is the Rev.
 George Barvill, A. M., who has placed elegant painted glass in some of the win-
 dows; they came from a chapel belonging to lord Petre. The parsonage-house is
 in a very low, unwholesome situation, near the church.

The free-school, erected and endowed by the Rev. Edward Holme, of Birling,

educates ten poor boys, and an equal number of girls, natives of this parish and Ryarsh, and five from each of those of West and East Malling; they remain here until they are fourteen years of age. A salary of 30*l.* is paid to the master.

This parish was one of those which formerly contributed to the repair of the fifth pier of Rochester bridge.

No place is better adapted than this for the growth of hops, as may be evinced from this extraordinary circumstance—one of Sir Henry Hawley's cottagers, in 1784, from half an acre of land grew forty-five hundred of hops, which he sold for 145*l.*

E A S T M A L L I N G.

THE parish of East Malling joins Leyborne; it is written in Domesday-book, Metlinges; in the Textus Roffensis, Meallinges. Few places are more delightful than East Malling; rich in all the productions of the best part of Kent, and finely diversified in its scenery. The Medway glides through it, the banks of which are richly clothed with young oaks. It is so extensive and populous, that, were the houses formed into streets, it would make a larger place than West or Town Malling. Besides its own particular village there are several hamlets; Larkfield-street, one of them, from whence the hundred has its name, has a fair held on St. James's day; New Hythe, lying close to the Medway, where much business is done, and stone and other articles, brought from the lower parts of the river, are reloaded in larger vessels. The jurisdiction of the corporation of Maidstone extends to New Hythe, where a chapel once stood. At the suppression it was given to Hugh Cartwright, of East Malling, gent. Prayers were daily performed; now religious worship is greatly neglected. Had the pious young monarch, Edward VI., known of how much use a chapel would have been to these poor people, who reside so far from their mother church, where from the badness of the roads in the winter time it is impossible to attend, he would not have left the inhabitants without the means of instruction. And Mill-street, another hamlet, so denominated from a corn-mill. The London road goes through this parish. On the heath are kilns, where many of the bricks and tiles used in the neighbourhood are burnt.

The manor of East Malling was in the Anglo-Saxon times vested in the primates of Canterbury, until Anselm, one of them, gave it to the nunnery of West Malling. Henry VIII., at its dissolution, exchanged it with archbishop Cranmer;
queen

queen Elizabeth having obtained, granted it for a term of years to Sir Henry Brooke alias Cobham, knt., a younger son of George lord Cobham; he passed it to Pierpoint; Hugh Cartwright, Esq., next possessed the manor, and left it to Jane his widow, "one of the seventeen daughters of Sir John Newton." Her second husband, Sir James Fitzjames, sold it to Humphry Delind, and he to Sir Robert Brett. The term expiring, James I. granted, and Charles I. confirmed this manor in fee to Sir John Rayney, of Wrotham, created in 1641 a baronet of Nova Scotia; Sir John his son about 1657 alienated the manor to serjeant, afterwards judge Twisden, whose descendant, Sir John-Papillon Twisden, Bart., still owns, and holds courts leet and baron for the manor.

Bradbourne, an ancient seat, and once a manor, belonged to the Isley family, until Sir Henry Isley exchanged it with Henry VIII. The Marminghams disposed of it in 1656 to Thomas Twisden, Esq., serjeant, afterwards judge Twisden, created by Charles II. a knight and baronet, who sat with the greatest credit to himself and advantage to the state, upon the bench for eighteen years, and during the most troublesome and trying times, both during the usurpation of the commonwealth, the protectorates, and the important period of the restoration. This venerable judge changed the orthography of his name from Twysden to Twisden, to distinguish his branch from the elder one. Extremely partial to this spot, he improved the seat, and obtained leave to impark the surrounding lands: he died here in 1666, aged eighty-one years. There are some fine portraits remaining of him, taken at a very advanced age, in his robes. He married Jane, daughter of John Tomlinson, of Whitby, in Yorkshire, Esq., and sister, and one of the three coheirs of Matthew Tomlinson, knighted by Henry Cromwell, when governor of Ireland, whose life was with difficulty saved at the Restoration, being one of Charles I.'s pretended judges, and who guarded him during his trial. Sir Roger Twisden, Bart., his great grandson, so highly improved Bradbourne, that it is become one of the most charming residences in this part of Kent. Sir Roger died in 1772, greatly lamented both in his public and private character, leaving Sir Roger Twisden, Bart., who dying without issue male, the title came to his brother Sir John-Papillon Twisden, Bart.

This parish, a peculiar of Canterbury, is in the diocese of Rochester, and deanry of Shoreham. Its church, dedicated to St. James, is a very large Gothic building, with much painted glass in the windows; the great tithes belonged to the priory of

the other Malling. The vicarage, in the gift of Sir John-Papillon Twifden, Bart., is valued in the king's books at 10*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* The present incumbent is the venerable and Rev. Daniel Hill, A. M., and rector of Addington.

At the entrance of East Malling heath is a tumulus, supposed to be Roman, the only thing memorable of that kind within the parish.

WEST, OR TOWN MALLING.

THE situation of this parish is evident from its name ; though now usually called Town Malling. It was some time after the Norman conquest denominated Malling Parva ; but so greatly is it changed, that the village has become a handsome, considerable, and pleasant town, where many gentry reside. The water here, remarkably good, is in such profusion as to form a rivulet at the end of the place. The town and parish is governed by its two constables chosen annually, except the borough of St. Leonard, which is under the jurisdiction of Larkfield hundred. They have a Saturday's market, and three fairs, held on August 12, October 2, and Nov. 17, for horses, cattle, toys, &c.

Malling was raised to consequence by its once famous nunnery. The Anglo-Saxon monarch Edmund, in the year 945, gave to Burhric bishop of Rochester three plough lands, to augment the revenues of the monastery of St. Andrew, for which they were to pray for the soul of the royal donor. The grant signed by Edmund was witnessed by Edred his successor, Edgiva their mother, the archbishops, bishops, and Ælgifu the king's concubine, followed by dukes, and other great laymen. The circumstance of Ælgifu's signature is remarkable. Elfgine his queen, whose piety, prudence, and discretion procured her a place in the Roman calendar, seemed a far more suitable witness to such a transaction.

This estate, during the ravages of the Danes, was lost to the see of Rochester. William I. gave it to Odo, the powerful bishop of Bayeux ; but it was reclaimed from that rapacious prelate by archbishop Lanfranc, who restored it and the church of Malling to Gundulph bishop of Rochester. Gundulph, with more zeal than prudence, deprived his see of the manor and church of East Malling, giving them to the endowment of an abbey of Benedictine nuns, which he founded in 1090 to the honour of the Virgin Mary. The monastery soon grew into great power. Henry III. gave the nuns a weekly market on Saturdays and Wednesdays, and free

warren, with fairs on the eve, day, and morrow of St. Matthew the apostle; on the eve and festival of St. Leonard; and on the eve and festival of St. Peter *ad vincula*.

These advantages were given to restore the nunnery from the devastation of a fire, which, in the preceding reign, destroyed it and the village. The surrounding country flocked thither; from a desolated waste it became a village, from these a town, from Malling Parva, Town Malling, a place of considerable trade.

This religious community was peculiarly unfortunate in their abbeesses often bringing it into disgrace. A pestilential fever in 1348 threatened the lives of all the professed. Margaret Vernon, lady abbess, surrendering it to Henry VIII., she received an annuity of 40*l.*, and to her eleven nuns, from 3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* to 2*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, very slender stipends, considering the annual value of the nunnery was 245*l.* 10*s.* 2½*d.*, and the clear rental 218*l.* 4*s.* 2½*d.* Women, instead of vows of chastity, ought to marry, being never so respectable as matrons; but these nuns ought not to have been dispossessed; but if they chose, to remain professed, to have retained their possessions until their deaths. Had this wise and humane method been adopted towards the religious of both sexes, we should never have had all those dreadful inhuman executions that disgrace Henry VIII.'s latter days, and stain his name so deep as a cruel, sanguinary sovereign. The abbess paid a singular acknowledgment of subjection to the see of Rochester; sending the prelates of that diocese annually ten pounds of wax and a boar.

Henry VIII. by grant and exchange passed the abbey to archbishop Cranmer; it went from the metropolitans again to the crown. Elizabeth gave a lease of it for a long term to Sir Henry Brooke lord Cobham, and it followed the same descents as have been mentioned in speaking of the manor of East Malling, until the younger Sir John Rayney, Bart., conveyed these premises about the time of the Restoration to Isaac Honeywood, of Hampsted, Middlesex, gent.

His grandson, Frazer Honeywood, Esq., rebuilt the abbey-house of Malling in the Gothic style, making it, at a very great expense, a suitable residence; dying in 1764 without issue, he devised this seat to the baronets of his name and family. The late Mr. Foote died here, and it is now occupied by his son, George-Talbot-Hatley Foote, Esq., in whom benevolence, learning, and taste unite.

This abbey has been traced, by its foundations, to have consisted of two quadrangles, with cloisters, and a spacious hall. The church had two towers; there is
a fine

a fine one remaining. To the south was the cemetery, where stone coffins, ornamented with crosses, have been found, with rings and trinkets. The grand gateway, standing at the west end of the precinct of the abbey, has upon it a heart guttee, and a shield ermine, a crozier in bend sinister, on a chief three annulets; this latter might have been the arms of the nunnery: the fish-ponds may be very plainly traced. There runs a fine clear stream through an opening in the wall near the modern house, forming a cascade; passing the road, it finds a way to the gardens of the Rev. Mr. Brooke.

St. Clement's, in Ewell, was once a manor, held as half a knight's fee, under the fee of Rochester, by the de Say and the at-Forde families, in ancient times, and the Covenys in the reign of Henry VIII.: it now belongs to Mr. William Fowle, but the site of the mansion is unknown.

Here are several handsome houses—that of the Rev. John-Kenward Shaw, who has taken the surname of Brooke, is by the abbey-gate: Thomas-Augustus Douce, Esq., resides in one near the church; the Hon. admiral John Forbes had another in St. Leonard's-street, since purchased by Mr. Douce, but the residence of the widow of the late governor Wynch: New Barne, the seat of Mr. Graham, occupied by Mr. Taylor, is in the vicinity of the town.

Town Malling is in the same ecclesiastical jurisdiction as East Malling.

The body of the church is a modern, neat building, dedicated to St. Mary. The patronage of the vicarage, once in the abbess and convent, now in the Twifdens, of Bradbourn, is valued in the king's books at 10*l*. The present incumbent is the Rev. Richard Husband.

Before the Reformation a cell belonged to the abbey with a chapel. The tower still standing is now a stowage for hops.

It is supposed the military way of the Romans passed through this parish.

O F H A M.

TO the west of Town Malling is Ofham, the Offaham of the Anglo-Saxons, a name taken from having once belonged to the royal Mercian Offa; and lying upon the Roman military way, it might have been more ancient. It is now mean, lonely, gloomy, little known even to the surrounding peasantry. The village, scattered upon an high broad green, is surrounded with woods, which seem to enclose it.

On

On this green is a quintin, a machine at which youths used to show their dexterity on horseback. The quintin, borrowed from the Romans, is composed of an upright with a cross, one bar of which has holes, to the other is fastened a bag of sand; the former being struck, the other gave the person who struck it a violent blow, unless he used the greatest expedition; the unhappy wight who received a blow from the sand-bag was derided: he who broke the board had as much honour as the other scorn.

The church of Canterbury, at the solicitation of archbishop Ceolnoth, obtained in 832 from Ethelwulf, son of the monarch Egbert, Ofnehamme, but lost it in the subsequent devastations of the Danes. It was given to Odo bishop of Bayeux at the Conquest, afterwards to the de Ofhams. After a variety of transitions, it was purchased by the ancestors of its present right honourable possessor, the earl of Thanet, who holds a court for this manor, but pays a fee-farm rent of 2*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* to the crown. The court-lodge is on the north of the village.

Godwell, once a part of the manor of Ofham, but long separated from it, has in like manner passed through a variety of owners, until it has now settled in the person of Mrs. Elizabeth Knell, and she likewise holds a court for the manor.

This parish is in the same diocese and deanry as the former. Its church, a Gothic structure, is dedicated to St. Michael. This discharged living is in the gift of the crown, and of the certified value of 40*l.* The Rev. John Liptrott is rector. Ofham anciently contributed to the repair of the fifth pier of Rochester bridge.

Tradition says that Jack Straw, the principal partisan of the more infamous Wat Tyler, was a native of Pepingstraw, in this parish, and from thence obtained his name. Places often contend for the honour of giving birth to sages; few will strive to deprive Pepingstraw of all the credit to be gained by Straw's nativity.

A D D I N G T O N.

TO the north of Ofham is Addington, the Eddingtune of Domesday-book, from Edda the Saxon owner. It is poor in soil, but the church being placed on an eminence, a little distance from the London road, makes, with the large mansion near it, a pleasing object. A stream passes through the parish, which, though rising at Nepecker, in Wrotham, is called Addington brook. Here is an Eel-bourn or Nailbourn, a water breaking out every seven or eight years with so great rapidity

rapidity as to have a trench dug to conduct it into the Leyborne rivulet ; the trout are changed by it from a white to a red colour.

After the Conquest this small parish was possessed by Odo bishop of Bayeux : through females of the Charles's, Snayths, and Wattons, it has come to the present owner Leonard Bartholomew, Esq., whose only child, married to the hon. captain John Wingfield, brother to lord viscount Powerscourt, will probably take the estate into that family. Courts leet and baron are held for this manor, which is subordinate to that of Swancombe, and as such guard duty was due to Rochester castle.

The small church, with a lofty tower, dedicated to St. Margaret, is in the same diocese and deanry as the preceding parishes. The age of our Gothic edifices can seldom be accurately ascertained : an inscription upon one of its walls precisely determines the date of this church—

“ In fourteen hundred and none,
Here was neither stick nor stone ;
In fourteen hundred and three,
The goodly building which you see.”

There is a handsome marble pyramidical monument near a yew-tree, in the cemetery, which has a very good effect from the London road.

The rectory, an appendant upon the manor, is valued in the king's books at 6*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, with a pension of 5*s.* to the priory of Rochester, now paid to the dean and chapter of that see ; the vicar of Hadlow paid to the rector 1*s.* 6*d.* The present incumbent is the Rev. Daniel Hill, vicar of East Malling.

At the Warrens, a little north-east of the church, has been a Druid temple in an oval form ; some of the stones have been carried away by the inhabitants, and many are covered by the sandy soil. To the north-west of these are other massy stones, now heaped in confusion upon each other ; they were originally six in number, and thirty-three paces in circuit. As these last are only thirty-six paces from the other, there can be little doubt but this was the altar belonging to the temple.

TROTTESLIFFE.

THE parish of Trottescliffe, to the north-west of Addington, has the upper part upon the barren chalk hill covered with coppice wood ; the low ground is sandy,

sandy : though every way bleak and unpleasant, it is yet a healthy spot. The parish contains only thirty-two separate dwellings, yet the great road to Dartford goes through it. The name is written Trottescliffe, but pronounced Trosley.

The manor was given by Offa king of Mercia, in 788, to the church of St. Andrew's, in Rochester. In the Danish spoliations it was lost, but afterwards regained. The prelates of Rochester erected a palace, which becoming ruinous, was rebuilt in 1185. The munificent Hamo Noble, called de Hethe, whilst he sat in the chair of Rochester, repaired, and made great additions and improvements to it. Soon after the Reformation, it was deserted by the bishops, and has ever since been leased out for lives : the family of Goddens in the last, and the Whitacres in this century, have held it ; the latter have acquired larger fortunes by agriculture than, perhaps, any other family in the kingdom.

An estate also called Trottescliffe manor, subordinate to that belonging to the bishops of Rochester, had a park called Cressy, from the ancient possessors, afterwards le West park ; coming to the Crevequers, one of them, in Edward I.'s reign, released all his right in the manor of Trottescliffe to the see of Rochester : the purchase was fifty marks, and a palfrey as a fine. This, now called West court or Wrotham water, lies in Trottescliffe and Wrotham ; the lessee, Thomas Whitacre, Esq., resides in this parish.

Trottescliffe, in the same jurisdiction as Addington, has a church dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul. The rectory, an appendant upon the manor, is valued in the king's books at 10*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.* The Rev. William Crawford, chaplain to the bishop of Rochester, is rector. This parish was anciently obliged to contribute towards the repair of the fifth pier of Rochester bridge.

The Rev. Paul Bariston and Mrs. Mary Godden gave lands, now of the annual rent of 9*l.*, to support a charity school.

In this parish resided Anthony de Sancta Cilia, a nobleman of the kingdom of Majorca, and a captain of Brabant : in July 1576 he had a son baptized here ; the father was buried at Maidstone January 8, 1592. Perhaps this gentleman came into England whilst Philip II. wore the matrimonial crown of this realm.

A Y L E S F O R D.

AYLESFORD parish is divided from Maidstone by the Medway. The orthography of the name has been very various; in the Saxon Chronicle it is *Ægelesford*; Nenius in 620 wrote it *Episford*; Asserius and *Æthelward*, *Ægelsthræp*; *Domesday-book*, *Elesford*. It is a place of great antiquity; pleasant, fertile, and healthy; diversified with hill and valley, and beautifully varied with wood and water. The white houses of its gentry form a fine contrast to the green verdure of the lawns and meadows. There is such a sudden rise in the land, that a person standing on the south side of the church-yard may look down the chimnies of the houses, the tops being lower than the ground upon which he stands; this has a singular and novel effect. The prospect is beautiful, exhibiting the fertile vale watered by the Medway.

This place, too large for a village, is too small for a town: the carrying trade upon the river chiefly occupies the inhabitants. They have a fair held on July 29. The main street is very spacious; the houses on the water side are mean dwellings. A handsome stone bridge of six arches, built many years ago at the expense of an individual, gives a communication to the opposite sides of the river, and is now kept in repair by the county.

Aylesford manor, part of the demesne lands of the crown, was held by *Ostert Gibford*, in king John's reign; after various transfers it came to the *Wyats*, who lost it by attainure; and queen Mary, to reward Sir Robert Southwell for his services in quelling Sir Thomas Wyatt's rebellion, gave him a grant of the manor, but reserved the priory. The gift was limited to Sir Robert, his lady, and their issue male; no such being left, it again went to the crown: devolving to Elizabeth, her majesty, in the fortieth year of her reign, gave it to Edward Randolph and Richard Argall, who in the beginning of James I.'s reign sold the fee to the *Colepepers*, of *Preston-hall*, the owner of which has ever since possessed the manor.

The Priory, now called the Friary, standing on the north-east side, and close to the Medway, was founded by Richard lord Grey, of Codnor, in 1240, for friars Carmelites, being the first monastery of that order erected in England. At the dissolution it was granted to the elder Wyat, to hold by knight's service at 10*s.* 3*d.* yearly rent. Queen Mary, intending to re-establish the monastic orders, retained,

but

but queen Elizabeth gave it to the Sedley family, who converted the priory to a feat, and resided here.

Sir Charles Sedley, justly thinking himself dishonoured by having Catharine, his only child, raised by James II. to the rank of countess of Doncaster, which made her criminality with the king only the more conspicuous, being accused of deserting his royal master, replied, "His majesty having created my daughter a countess, I could do no less than make his a queen." Sir William Sedley, his father, in Charles II.'s reign, alienated the Friars to Sir Peter Rychaut. The following extract from the parish register is equally honourable to Sir Peter and the parochial clergyman:—"Henry Grimstone, Esquire, and vicar of the parish, was buried the 20th of September, 1654, in the chancel, near to Sir Peter Rychaut, and was laid in his grave upon his right side, as he desired." The two succeeding vicars were Joseph Jackson, who held it for a year, and "Daniel Aldorne, gent., minister of this parish, and one of the Sorogatts of the diocese of Rochester, and brother to Dr. Edward Alderne, chancellor of said diocese, who was buried the 1st day of September, 1666." Sir Peter Rychaut had ten sons; the youngest, an eminent merchant, confidential servant to the crown during three reigns, traversed great part of Europe, and went also into Asia and Africa, yet found time to write books, and voluminous ones, upon various subjects; dying in 1700, aged seventy-two, he was buried near his parents, in the south chancel of this church. The heir of Sir Paul disposed of this estate to Caleb Banks, of Maidstone, Esq.: his son, Sir John Banks, created a baronet, made the Priory his residence, and greatly improved it. Heneage, created earl of Aylesford, having married Elizabeth, the eldest of the two daughters and coheirs of Sir John, obtained this in the partition of the estates. It is now the residence of the countess dowager of Aylesford, Charlotte, younger daughter and coheir of Charles duke of Somerset, who dispenses her bounty to the needy with a very liberal hand.

This feat is the most perfect of any religious house in this part of the kingdom, and neither within nor without appears older than the reign of James I., until the parts are particularly scrutinized. The hall, chapel, cloisters, and other remains of this conventual edifice, were formed into a suite of apartments by Sir John Banks, who laid the cloisters with white and black marble: the high stone walls enclosing the garden, and the ponds belonging to the mill, are as they were in the monastic times; but the park is converted into more useful lands, though much of the paling

still remains. Lord Aylesford also owns Rowe's place, the seat of the Rowes: it came by the Banks's to his lordship's ancestor.

The manor of Tottington, or Tottenden, once belonging to the bishop of Bayeux, was afterwards owned by the Rockefles, who exchanged the tithe of the manor with St. Andrew's monastery, in Rochester, for the prayers of that community. The Poynings owned this manor with its free chapel of St. Stephen, whose female heir took them to the Palmers, of Snodland; the one held them of the castle of Leeds, and barony of Crevequer, the other of the sovereign's honour of Lisle: being sold in Henry VIII.'s reign to the Warcup, after various alienations the manor is now the property of Mrs. Frances Golding, of Ryarsh, who holds it of the crown at a fee-farm rent of 3*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.*

Eccles, the Aigleffa of the Domesday-book, was also Odo's. Part is owned by the Finch family; the rest, separated into several lots, is held by Mrs. F. Golding, Mr. Corral, and George Best, of Chilston, Esq.; the last gentleman is supposed liable to a fine due for the manor, instead of guard rent to Rochester castle. It was assessed towards the repairs of the fourth pier of Rochester bridge. The mansion has so long disappeared, that its site is unknown, but supposed to have lain near Boxley-hill.

Cosenton or Cosington, near Boxley parish, but in the jurisdiction of Maidstone hundred, was the property of the Cosingtons, from the reign of king John to that of Henry VIII., when by a coheir it went to the Dukes; at the death of the heir general of whom, in 1750, it went to Stacey, who in 1797 sold the manor to Mr. John Spong, of Milhale: the manorial rights have long been lost. It was liable to be assessed for the repair of the fourth pier of Rochester bridge. The old mansion is used as a farm-house; but the relics of ancient respectability are sufficiently apparent.

Preston-hall, the head of the manor of Preston and Allington, was the ancient residence of the Colepeper family, which have spread very wide in this county; one branch of them was ennobled, and there have been two creations of baronets. Here they were, from an early period, until the death of Sir Thomas Colepeper, the last baronet of those of Preston, in 1723, when it went to Alicia his sister, the issueless wife of four husbands, all of whom she survived: at her death in 1734, by virtue of a settlement, her estates vested in Charles Milner, of Yorkshire, Esq., M. D., brother of her last husband; he dying unmarried in 1771, devised the whole

whole to his nephew, the Rev. Joseph Butler, D. D., who took the name of Milner; his widow now resides here: the remainder is vested in Charles Milner, of Farningham, Esq. Preston-hall, by the improvement of its late owner, is a very elegant mansion; a lawn, gained by turning the road, seems united to a small paddock, each having a sunk fence; the lands are laid out with great taste.

The church of Aylesford is a large, fine, Gothic structure, dedicated to St. Peter, containing many costly monuments to departed grandeur. The vicarage, in the gift of the dean and chapter, is valued in the king's books at 10*l*. The vicar has "the manor of the parsonage," though the great tithes are vested in the church of Rochester, as they had been before in the hospital of Stroud: the present lessee is lord le Despenser. The parsonage-house, on the north side the cemetery, is an old, ruinous, mean habitation. The present vicar is the Rev. — Eveleigh.

Near Barming-heath, in one of the most retired, gloomy spots, is the ancient free chapel of Longsole, called the Hermitage; and no place was ever more adapted to seclusion and mortification, being hid in woods; and, unless a road had been near it, might never have been discovered by the prying eye of curiosity. After great contentions between the ecclesiastics of Aylesford and Allington, it was decided by the Roman court to belong to the former. The Hermitage was founded in Edward III.'s reign, and dedicated to St. Lawrence; the sanctity of its sequestered tenants was in great estimation. The chapel, still remaining, is used as a barn; the cemetery is an orchard.

The hospital of the Holy Trinity was founded by Sir William Sedley, and endowed with 184 acres of land in Frittenden, valued at 76*l*., in conformity to the will of his brother, John Sedley, Esq.; the number to be maintained were seven men and two women. The house still remains, but, shamed to the patron and trustee, no nomination has taken place for a number of years: the laudable institution, if kept up, would be an inducement to the poor to be honest, industrious, and sober.

There is also settled 20*l*. by the Rev. Joseph Milner, in pursuance of Dr. Charles Milner's will, to support a charity-school.

In Aylesford is Kits'-Coyty-house, a rude cluster of large stones, supporting still larger. Near it is another, now in "ruins;" avarice having undermined this in hopes of discovering wealth. Much has been written relative to these rude remains; the one is supposed the monument of Catigern, brother of Vortimer, the British king,

king, who fighting with Horfa, brother of Hengist, the Saxon chieftain, fell with his antagonist, each having mortally wounded the other; and Horsted, about three miles distant, is thought to be the burial-place of Horfa. Such an action no doubt happened; but as none of the nations who came here erected such memorials over their dead, it is most reasonable to suppose that they are only druidical altars, resembling so many others in this and other northern kingdoms, belonging to temples, the remains of which are visible near them.

There is a remarkable spring issuing out of the coppice woods of Cofenton, which though clear, and coming from a deep, loose, chalky soil, yet changes wood, and even flints and pebbles, to a most beautiful carmine colour, which become of a more brilliant hue after having been taken out of the water some time. No reason is assigned for this extraordinary alteration, the water not being chalybeate, nor having any other distinguishing quality, except being very chilly, and rough to the taste.



B U R H A M.

THIS parish, to the north of Aylesford, the Boreham of Domesday-book, has been written Burgham in later ages. It is washed by the Medway, from whose banks gradually ascending, the land terminates in hills of considerable height. Burham has little to recommend it, either as to health, beauty, richness of soil, or produce. The only peculiarity is pits of potter's clay in the hamlet of Great Culing. The corporation of Maidstone has jurisdiction upon the river to a piece of land called Hawkeswood.

Leofwine, the brother of Harold II., with whom he fell at Hastings, owned the manor of Burham; after the Conquest it was given to the Curva Spina, or Crookthorne family, to whom followed the Magmanots, whose heiress took it to the de Says, afterwards barons; they obtained of Edward III. a view of frankpledge, with other liberties, and to hold *in capite* by the service of contributing to the repair of part of Rochester bridge, and of Dover castle. The manor came into the Fienes' family, and went with the title of Dacre, until it was given to a younger son in James I.'s reign, whose heir disposed of it to trustees; they conveyed it to Sir John Banks, Bart. By his eldest daughter and coheir it settled in the Finch family,

family, and is now possessed by the earl of Aylesford; his lordship holds courts leet and baron for this manor.

The vicarage of Burham, a discharged living of the clear yearly value of 46*l.*, is in the diocese and deanry of Rochester. The church, dedicated to the blessed Virgin, though small, has a large tower, with some painted glass in the windows. The knights of St. John of Jerusalem were patrons. It belongs now to Mrs. Milner, of Preston-hall. The incumbent is the Rev. Robert Parsons.

Haly-garden, a spring, the object of superstitious devotion, in this parish, was the resort of pilgrims: the Carmelite friars obtaining leave from Richard II., by an aqueduct brought the water to their priory of Aylesford.



W O L D H A M.

WOLDHAM, more north than the last, adjoins St. Margaret's parish, and the liberty of Rochester. It was written Wuldam by the Anglo-Saxons, and Oldeham by the Normans: the derivation is from wolde, a plain open down or hill, in opposition to weald, a low, woody tract, and ham, a village. Though only two miles from Rochester, it is yet obscure and disagreeable, the hills being sterile, unclosed downs; the valleys stagnate, unhealthy marshes, forming a striking contrast to the charming districts last described. The village, with its church, is upon the banks of the Medway.

This poor parish has been contended for as much as if it had been the richest, by the monks of St. Andrew, in Rochester, the Anglo-Saxon monarchs, and afterwards between the former and the bishops of Rochester. At the dissolution of monastic institutions, the priory held the manor, the bishop the church. Henry VIII. gave the former to the dean and chapter of Rochester, who now hold courts leet and baron: their lessee is Mr. Iden Henham.

The two manors called Rings and Starkeys, were the property of different families until united in the Marshams: lord Romney holds both. The Starkeys, who owned the latter, built a good mansion and chapel there: some remains of this place of divine worship are still standing; and the house, used by a farmer, retains an appearance of better days, being of stone, with Gothic windows and door-cases.

Sellers, anciently Hall, was originally the property of the at-Halls, who wrote themselves

themselves in Latin, de Aula; the atte Celars, or de Celario family, who purchased it, changed the name to Celars, by corruption Sellers: going by a female to the Beuleys, the manor was called Beuley-court, but the mansion retained the appellation of Hall-place, or Woldham-hall. The Rev. John-Kenward Shaw, who has taken the name of Brooke, now owns this feat, being devised to him by his maternal uncle, Joseph Brooke, Esq.

Woldham, in the same jurisdiction as the last parish, has a large, irregular, disagreeable looking church, dedicated to All Saints. The rectory is discharged, and of the clearly yearly value, in the king's books, of 30*l.*, but has received queen Ann's bounty: the patronage is in the bishop of Rochester. The Rev. Samuel Browne, A. M., is the incumbent.

This parish was once assessed to the repairs of the fourth pier of Rochester bridge. Some years ago, in digging a trench from Woldham-house to the open downs, several celts, chiefly of brass, were found.

HUNDRED OF SHARNEL.

THIS hundred, on the west side the Medway, extends to the Thames. The name in Domesday-book is Effamele, in some writings Scamele. It once belonged to the Knights Templars, afterwards to the noble family of Cobham. James I., upon their attainure, gave the hundred to the earl of Salisbury, with the manor of Shorne; the former was passed away to the Levifons, of Staffordshire, and they in Charles I.'s reign alienated it to the Woodyers; since then Sharnel has gone with, and is now possessed by the owner of Shorne. This hundred contains the parishes of Halling, Cookstone, part of Cobham, Shorne, Chalk, Denton, Merston, Higham, Cliff, Cowling, Frindsbury, and Stroud, and a part of Stoke; but as its church is in another hundred, that parish is not noticed in this work,

H A L L I N G.

THE parish of Halling, to the north of Snodland, is the Haling of the Saxons, and the Hallinges of Domesday-book; its name means low pasture. It is every way unpleasant, consisting of chalk hills, and unwholesome salt or fresh marshes.

There

There are two villages, called the Upper and Lower Halling; the road from Stroud to Maidstone passes through the latter.

At an early period Halling became part of the revenues of the see of Rochester. It was lost during the Danish invasions, seized by Odo bishop of Bayeux, recovered in 1076, and became, in the division between the bishop and convent, confirmed to the former for the support of the prelate's table. On this now disagreeable, unhealthy spot, the bishops erected a palace, which becoming ruinous, Gilbert de Glanville, in the twelfth century, rebuilt it. The next great patron of this place was the pious, learned, munificent Hamo Noble bishop of Rochester, confessor to Edward II., to whom he behaved with all dutiful fidelity in his greatest misfortunes. There is no character in that age more highly or more deservedly praised, than this prelate's: William de Dene has written his life, which is given in the *Anglia Sacra*. His family descended from a Norman gentleman, surnamed le Noble: they were first seated in the north of England: a branch of them affecting commerce, settled in Exeter, where they, in the fourteenth century, executed the highest offices of magistracy, or represented that city in parliament. A third branch established themselves in the eastern parts of the kingdom, and were remarkably fond of the clerical profession: the bishop was a native of Hythe, in Kent, and thence called de Hethe—he was elected in 1316, consecrated at Avignon 1319, and died in 1352, having restored this, and the other residences of the bishops of Rochester, from a state of almost dilapidation to more than pristine grandeur. A statue of him in his episcopal robes was placed in a niche over the outside of Halling, carved in stone, about two feet high, and elegantly finished. It was blown down in a great storm, but not being broken, was presented to Dr. Atterbury bishop of Rochester—the subsequent misfortunes of that prelate prevented its being placed in some other more secure and public situation. Probably bishop Noble was nearly related to Stephen le Noble, prior of Dunmow, in Essex, who died in 1312. The palace stood near the church, and almost upon the banks of the Medway. Here was a vineyard so early as 1255. The manor and estate still remain with the see of Rochester; but the palace and its vineyards have totally disappeared.

Langridge manor has gone through a variety of possessions until it settled in the Goldings, whose heir general took it to a Wood, upon whose death it went to Mr. W. Baker, a second husband; he resides here. Some of the ruins of the ancient

manſion of the Bavents, once owners of the manor, are now, or lately were, remaining.

This pariſh, in the dioceſe and deanry of Rocheſter, is valued in the king's books at 7*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* The church, dedicated to St. John Baptiſt, is in the patronage of the dean and chapter of Rocheſter. The vicar is John Price, A. M. Subordinate to the church was the free chapel or chantry of St. Laurence, ſuppreſſed by Edward VI. Halling anciently contributed to the repair of the third pier of Rocheſter bridge.



C O O K S T O N E.

THIS pariſh, farther to the north than the laſt, is written Cocleſtane in Domeſday-book, now uſually pronounced Cuxton. It is not more than a mile each way, exceeding Halling in healthineſs and fertility. The Medway forms the northern boundary; the land does not riſe gently from that river, but inſtantly becomes hilly.

The hiſtory of this manor is much the ſame as the laſt. From an early date it was the property of the ſee of Rocheſter, without any other intermiſſion than from the Daniſh wars, and the Uſurpation in the laſt century, when, with Middleton Cheney, it was purchaſed by Robert Fenwick, Eſq., for 627*l.* 12*s.*; the Reſtoration conveyed it to the legal owner. Lord Romney is the preſent leſſee. The manor of Bereſſe or Bereſh, after much contention, was confirmed eccleſiaſtical property, and has ever ſince Hamo Noble's epiſcopate been blended with the manor of Cookſtone.

Worne's-place, generally called Horne's-place, cloſe to the weſt bank of the Medway, was the ſeat of Sir William Worn, lord mayor of London in 1487. It has long been poſſeſſed by the Marſhams: the learned, loyal, accompliſhed Sir John Marſham, created a baronet, ſo well known by his excellent literary works, firſt reſided here; it is ſtill owned by his deſcendant lord Romney: but the family having quitted it for the Mote, the whole was taken down in 1783, except what was ſufficient to be converted into a farm-houſe. Lord Romney alſo owns the manor of Wickham, lying in this and Stroud pariſh, once belonging to Rocheſter priory.

This rectory, in the ſame juriſdiction as the preceding pariſh, valued in the king's books at 14*l.* 15*s.* 5*d.*, is in the gift of the biſhop of Rocheſter. The church

is dedicated to St. Michael ; in the chancel are many monuments of the Marshams. The Rev. Charles Moore, A. M. is rector.

The fifth pier of Rochester bridge was kept in repair by contributions raised from this and other parishes.

There are found here the larger never-dying bugloss, and the lesser flowered broom rape, both near Whorne's-place ; and what is singularly odious, as well as dangerous, dwale, or deadly night-shade, grows in vast profusion throughout the parish.



C O B H A M.

COBHAM lies to the north of Cookstone ; it is extremely retired, though the soil is rich, and the parish is of larger extent than the former one. The Roman Watling-street road passed through it, and having been the residence of nobility, it has been for ages of great importance. The gloom from the profusion of oaks in the park is contrasted by the village, placed on so elevated a situation as to command an extensive prospect to the south. Cobham is about two miles and a half from east to west, and one and a half from north to south. It contains 2950 acres of land, seventy houses exclusive of the college, and about 760 souls.

Cobham gave residence and name to very rich, powerful, and wise barons, who became extinct in the person of Sir John de Cobham, lord Cobham, knight banneret. Joan, his grand-daughter and heir, had five husbands : the fourth of them was the unfortunate Sir John Oldcastle, in her right baron Cobham, put to death by Henry V. for embracing the tenets of the Lollards. This often married lady, by her second husband Sir Gerard Braybrooke, left an only surviving child, Joan, who took the title and estate of Cobham, in marriage, to the Brooke alias Cobham family, no less illustrious than the preceding. The weak and wicked Henry lord Cobham forfeited his life, honours, and estates, for conspiring against James I., but was permitted to spend the remainder of an ignominious and contemptible existence in obscurity : he died in the most abject wretchedness, in the house of a very poor man, once his menial servant, who had long given him an asylum. Such was the end of the once gay, powerful Cobham, lord of the cinque ports, constable of Dover castle, lord lieutenant of this county, possessing an estate of 7000*l.* per annum, with a personalty of 30,000*l.* ; and whose lady was a daughter of the earl of Nottingham, and widow of the earl of Kildare.

James I. gave this fine estate to his relation Lodowick duke of Richmond and

Lenox ; at the extinction of these titles in the Stuarts, the last duke being much in debt, it was sold ; and after a variety of changes, Cobham settled in the ancestor of the earl of Darnley, who now possesses it.

Cobham-hall is the residence of its noble owner, and inferior to few houses in England, consisting of a centre and two wings ; the former boasts Inigo Jones as its architect : the last nobleman judiciously made the latter uniform with it. The staircase is spacious, and the music-gallery is ornamented in a very superb style. In remembrance of Elizabeth's having been entertained at this seat, her majesty's arms still remain in one of the large apartments, and near them an inscription relative to the royal visit. It is generally said this magnificent pile cost 60,000/.

On an eminence called William's-hill in the park, about a mile from the house, is the famed mausoleum, built in the Doric order, of Portland stone, upon the site of an ancient chapel ; the form is octangular ; the columns at the corners support a sarcophagus ; the tops terminate in a quadrangular pyramid ; the upper part forms an elegant chapel with windows of stained glass, ornamented with brocatello marble. Beneath is a vault, with recesses to receive the illustrious dead ; there repose the late earl and his countess. That nobleman left 10,000/ to erect this receptacle for departed greatness, but even that sum was not sufficient to complete the design ; the sum expended is said to have been 15,000/. Britain has nothing of the sepulchral kind equal in magnificence : architectural critics speak highly of the elegant chastity of Mr. Wyat's design, but think a cupola should be substituted instead of the pyramid. It forms a beautiful object to a great extent.

The park, though considerably lessened, now contains 800 acres surrounding the house, and finely varied. The lofty trees of enormous bulk, and venerable from age, attract particular attention : some oaks are more than twenty feet in circumference ; the famed chestnut standing in the grove near the path leading to Knight's-place farm, is thirty feet in girth, and receives its name of the four sisters from dividing into four very large arms. The venison fed in the park, from the fineness of herbage, is peculiarly delicate.

The prebend or farm of Cobhambury, long the possession of the see of Rochester, was wrested from it in Henry VIII.'s rapacious reign, and given to the barons Cobham, after their attainure ; but changing owners often, it settled by purchase in the present earl of Darnley. It still pays 12*l.* 16*s.* 2½*d.* as yearly tenths to the crown. A court baron is held for this manor.

Henhurst or Hennis, another manor, owned by earl Godwins before the Conquest, afterwards belonged to Ansgotus de Rochester. After having been often alienated, it was purchased by John Staples of the Temple, London, Esq., who devised it to the present owner, Percival-Hart Dyke, Esq., second son of Sir John-Dixon Dyke, Bart. Half of the tithes were given to the priory of Rochester, and at the dissolution granted by Henry VIII. to the dean and chapter.

Haydon or Hathdune, the Saxon Ædune, now the Mount, a manor of Odo bishop of Bayeux, of whom Ernulf de Hefding held, was some years since purchased by William-Salton Stall, Esq., whose widow owns it. This manor used to contribute towards the repair of the fourth pier of Rochester bridge.

Oulets or Owlle, an estate west of Cobham-street, long the residence of the ancient family of Hayes, was lately sold to Mr. Henry Edmeads, who has made it his residence.

Many persons in this parish pay suit and service at the manor of Dartford, held by Sir Charles Morgan, Bart.

Cobham, within the diocese and deanry of Rochester, is a vicarage. The church, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, is a large, handsome, Gothic building, where the monumental brasses are more ancient, and in greater number, than elsewhere. The preferment is a donative in the gift of lord Darnley, by Ecton accounted a discharged living, but is valued at 2*l.* in the king's books. The present vicar is the Rev. James Jones. The dean and chapter of Rochester have part of the great tithes, and four-fifths belong to William Pemble, Esq. The vicar has neither house nor glebe.

The ancient college at Cobham, founded by John lord Cobham in Edward III.'s reign for five priests or chaplains, was so well endowed, that at the dissolution its value was 142*l.* 1*s.* 2½*d.*, and the clear revenue 128*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.* The college was quadrangular, nearly adjoining to the south-east part of the cemetery belonging to the church. Some ivy-crowned walls still remain, as does the door-way, through which these priests went to their appropriate stalls on each side the great chancel.

The New College was founded and endowed by Sir William lord Cobham, whose piety was directed to a charity of another nature, to support the living poor, instead of supplicating mercy for the dead. It maintains twenty persons, elected out of this and other parishes. To support this laudable charity, his lordship gave lands in Shorne and in the county of Essex, of the annual value of 111*l.* 10*s.* :
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the wardens of Rochester bridge are presidents, and their clerk steward. The barons Cobham were visitors; the present one is the bishop of the diocese, and during a vacancy of the see the dean and chapter.

The college of stone is composed of some of the ancient parts of the old college, with additions, the whole forming a quadrangle. It has a neat appearance, containing twenty lodging-rooms, with a large hall, which has a screen at the entrance, and a raised floor at the upper end. The founder's arms in stone, and upon glass, with an inscription to his honour, are in the hall. The college, as well as the houses in Cobham-street, are supplied with water from works erected by the Brookes lords Cobham, and repaired lately at the expense of Mr. Bonham Hayes.

These choice plants grow in this parish—calanthian violet, blue and white Canterbury bells, ground pine of several sorts, goat's marjoram or organy, the yellow and the red archangel, the wayfaring tree, and the wild English daffodil.

S H O R N E.

TO the north of Cobham is Shorne, in the Textus Roffensis, Scorene, and in other muniments Sores and Schornes; the derivation is not easy to ascertain. The parish is unhealthy and uninteresting. In 1796 a battery was erected, mounting four twenty-four pounders; lying close to the sea wall, it protects this part of the Medway. This place is conspicuous at a distance from the windmill. The parish has about 1000 acres of arable, 400 of woodland, and 350 of marsh land; and there are about sixty houses. The soil is either chalk, sand, or gravel. The heath or common ground is extensive. The London road to Rochester goes through the parish.

The manor for some centuries was in the Northwoods, who held it *in capite*, by carrying, with other of the royal tenants, a white standard forty days when the sovereign went in hostile array to Scotland. After lord Cobham's attainure, James I. granted it to the earl of Salisbury, and after various alienations it has settled in the Gordon family, who have courts leet and baron.

Randall, formerly Roundall and Rumdale, the most ancient seat of the Cobhams, has lately been reunited to the chief estate by the present earl of Darnley, who holds a court baron for this manor.

Two branches of the numerous family of Maplesden till lately resided here: by a
coheirefs

coheirefs of Jarvis Maplesden, Efq., one of them, his estate has fallen to Mr. Thomas Pemble, but the feat is untenanted. The mansion of Mr. James Maplesden, of Shorne Ifield, came to Mr. Thomas Noakes, who had married his eldeft coheir, and is now poffeffed by that gentleman's brother, Mr. Jarvis Noakes, who makes it his refidence. The widow of Dr. William Ayerft, prebendary of Canterbury, built another feat in Shorne, now poffeffed by the Rev. Robert-Gunfley Ayerft, her only furviving fon, but occupied by Mr. Comport. It is oppofite to the church, and has a moft extenfive profpect over the furrounding country.

Shorne is in the fame ecclefiastical jurifdiction as the laft parifh; they were both given to the monastery of St. Saviour, of Bermondsey. At the diffolution this was granted by Henry VIII. to the dean and chapter of Rochefter. The vicarage is valued in the king's books at 13*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.* The church, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, contains many monuments; the moft remarkable is that of Sir Henry de Cobham le Uncle, fo called to diftinguifh him from a nephew of the fame names.

The vicar is the Rev. Henry Jones, A. M., a minor canon of Rochefter.

A very ancient chapel flood on the weft fide of the road oppofite to Mr. Thomas Pemble's mansion; near the foundation a ftone coffin and human bones have been found.

C H A L K.

TO the north of Shorne is Chalk, the Celca of Domefday-book, from cealc, the Saxon word for chalk-ftone. This parifh is about two miles from north to fouth, and a mile and half from eaft to weft. The London road goes through it. The fouthern part is hilly. It has two villages, Weft Chalk or Chalk-ftreet, and Eaft Chalk; the latter lies near an extenfive expofed marfh, rendering it fubject to fevere autumnal agues. Two-thirds of the parifh is marfh land, which comprises 117 acres, forty houfes, and 230 fouls. The fair is on Whit Monday. This inconfiderable place is not without an extenfive trade: in Chalk-ftreet refide feveral flint-knappers, who manufacture the "beft gun-flints" that are known in Europe; great quantities are exported.

Chalk was part of the estate of the infatiable Odo bifhop of Bayeux. In the reign of Henry III. being divided, it was diftinguifhed by the names of Eaft Chalk, and Weft Chalk or Weft-court; the former was given by the family of de Burgo to the monastery of Bermondsey, in Southwark. The other manor was purchafed of
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the Nevilles by the Cobhams, and settled upon their college at Cobham. At the Reformation the Cobham family obtained both. West Chalk was soon exchanged with the crown, and for six weeks was the estate of the lord protector Somerset, who again resigned it into the royal hands. Sir John Brooke, created baron Cobham by Charles I. for his loyalty, obtained both: they were conveyed by him to James duke of Richmond and Lenox, and at length purchased by the Blighs earls of Darnley, who also own Bekele or Beccles, an ancient manor, which is part of the Cobham estates, and supposed to have passed with the former manors, from the crown to the ducal family of Stuart.

There are two other inconsiderable manors, called Raynehurst and Tymberwood, with the estates of Felborow and Clam-lane, which were long the property of the same owner. In the last century the Crispes owned them; in this, they were sold by the Cottingtons to Mr. John Jenkinson, who disposed of the estates of Clam-lane and Felborough to Robert Maxwell earl of Farnham, whose only child and heir, lady Harriet, took them in marriage to Dennis Daly, Esq., of the kingdom of Ireland; but the manor of Raynehurst was sold to Mr. Brown, whose widow, Mrs. Sarah Brown, owns it. Tymberwood manor was alienated to the ancestor of Mr. David Day, the present possessor.

The church of Chalk is in the same spiritual jurisdiction as that of Shorne; it stands upon the brow of the hill, without any house near. There are very ludicrous grotesque figures on the outside of the porch, strange accompaniments to the statue of the blessed Virgin which stood between them. Hamo Noble bishop of Rochester gave Chalk church to the Benedictine priory of Norwich; it was exchanged in 1379 for the church of Martham, in Norfolk, by the college at Cobham; the crown is patron: but a portion of the tithe of Shorne, Chalk, and Cobham, was given by Henry VIII. to the dean and chapter of Rochester. This vicarage is a discharged living of the clear certified value of 40*l*. The Rev. William Crackelt, rector of Ifield and Nutsted, is the incumbent,

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DENTON, NEAR GRAVESEND.

DENTON lies still farther north, the Danetone of Domesday-book: the name shows it was once the residence of those piratical scourges the Danes. The addition, Lower Denton, is expressive of its situation, near the marshes, and as near Gravesend,

end, is to distinguish it from a place of the same name, near Eleham, in Kent. In extent it is nearly of the same size as Chalk; it resembles that parish in soil and unhealthiness. There is no church here, and but two dwellings, the court-lodge and the parsonage, a handsome house, lately rebuilt by Mr. Nicholas Gilbee, lessee under Mrs. Bevans, in which he resides.

The bishops of Rochester long possessed the manor and lands, with liberty of having gallows, assize of bread and ale, tumbrel, pillory, chattels of fugitives and condemned persons, with other feudal appendages, which now appear so extraordinary. The priory of Rochester afterwards owned the parish; at the dissolution Henry VIII. granted it to the dean and chapter of Rochester.

The small church, dedicated to St. Mary, stood on a bank close to the side of the road, but has been desecrated since the middle of the last century; some of the outside walls still mark the spot: the cemetery is a farm-yard.

As all church dues and duties are paid at Chalk, it may be properly deemed an appendage to that parish. It anciently was assessed towards the repairs of the ninth pier of Rochester bridge.



M E R S T O N.

TO the east of the last place is Merston, written Mereftune in the Textus Roffensis: the name is expressive of its low, marshy situation. There are only 150 acres of land in this district, which is now regarded in the assessments of the poor as a part of Shorne. Its boundaries are scarcely known; the land is good, but the situation unhealthy. There have been no inhabitants for some ages: anciently there appears to have been a castle or fortification, and a small church, dedicated to St. Giles; the sites of both are discernible in some woodlands, but not even a foot-path leads to them. Merston or Green manor, purchased by the barons Cobham whilst Henry VIII. sat upon the throne, has gone very much in the same line of descent as the estates at Cobham, and, like them, is now lord Darnley's.

The parish, though once a chapelry to Shorne, is now a rectory, within the diocese of Rochester and a peculiar of Canterbury, in the deanry of Shoreham. Its valuation in the king's books appears to be 2*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, and it is in the gift of the crown. This sinecure is held by the Rev. John Brett.

H I G H A M.

THE parish of Higham is more north than the preceding : the ancient names were Hecham, Hegham, and Heathham ; from about the reign of Stephen to that of Edward III. it was frequently written Lillechurch alias Higham, from the priory which was here, a very unsuitable place for such an establishment, unless it was charitably intended to soon release the nuns confined there of their vows and lives together ; for, like all the lands to the north of the London road as far as Canterbury, and thence to the isle of Thanet, it is subject to fatal intermittents.

It is about four miles from north-west to south-east, but little more than a mile wide. At the ford the defeated Britons were followed by Plautus, the victorious Roman general, in the year of Christ 43 ; and as a proof that this was an accustomed passage over the Thames to the Essex side, there remains a raised causeway, nearly thirty feet wide, the work of that people, conducted through the marshes by Higham to Shorne. Two centuries ago ferry-boats went from this place to East Tilbury, in Essex, much traffic being carried on by lading and unlading shipping to and from London on each side the river.

Higham had a nunnery in former ages, and a fort built by Elizabeth to defend the Thames ; but this too has long since been abandoned. It has now nothing worthy notice but its church and village, called Church-street, containing seven houses, whose unfortunate inhabitants are under the baneful influence of the marshes, which nearly comprise half the parish.

Odo bishop of Bayeux had Hecham ; and before him, Godwin, son of Carli and Toli, held it as two manors, named Higham and Lillechurch, which vesting in the crown upon Odo's disgrace, remained there until Stephen, with Matilda his queen, conveyed them under the general name of Lillechurch to William de Ipre, the Flemish earl of Kent, in exchange for the manor of Feversham. Probably the estates remained with that monarch, who afterwards founded and endowed a nunnery for the Benedictine order at Lillechurch, in Higham ; where his daughter Mary secluded herself until she removed to, and became abbess of Rumsey. The nuns procured a grant of the manor for 100*l.* from king John, after the earl of Kent with his countrymen were obliged to leave England ; and Henry III. confirmed it, with the farther privilege of holding a fair on the feast of St. Michael, and the two following days. From Hamo Noble, called de Hethe, bishop of Rochester,

Rocheſter, acting here as viſitor, it is evident the nunnery was under the protection of the prelates of that ſee. It continued without any remarkable occurrence until the reign of Henry VIII., when from ſixteen nuns it was reduced to a priorefs, a ſub-priorefs, and two ſiſters; for which reaſon, and their unchaſte lives, the learned Dr. Fiſher, biſhop of Rocheſter, obtained leave to diſſolve this, and the abbey of Bromhall, in Berkſhire, to augment the foundation of St. John's college, in Cambridge, the munificent work of Margaret counteſs of Derby, mother of Henry VII.

The original priory ſtood a mile from the church of Higham, near the road to Cliff; and in the garden behind what is called Lillechurch-houſe, is a field named Church-place, where human bones have been dug up. Afterwards this nunnery was deſerted, and another edifice built near the church, called the Abbey. The farm-houſe, erected on its ſcite, has ſeveral walls and fragments remaining of this ſecond religious foundation, ſome of which are covered with encircling ivy.

The manor of Great Okeley was anciently the St. Cleres', then the Sedleys', one of whom ſold it Mr. Shales, of Portſmouth, who ſoon after alienated it to the anceſtor of Peter lord Gwydir, the preſent poſſeſſor. Little Okeley, a manor belonging to the St. Cleres, at length alſo formed a part of the Sedley eſtates, of which family it was purchaſed by the Gates's: the three ſiſters and coheirs of the late Mr. Gates, town-clerk of Rocheſter, are now entitled to it. The Okeleyſ have ſo long loſt all manerial rights, that no courts are held for either of them.

The Hermitage is a feat and eſtate long poſſeſſed by the Head family: the former fell to thoſe claiming from their female heirs, the manſion went to the ſhare of James Roper, Eſq., who has taken the ſurname of Head. The houſe was rebuilt, and a park enclosed by Sir Francis Head, Bart., who alſo much improved the ground. This reſidence is on the ſouth-eaſt border of the pariſh, built on an eminence, having a moſt extenſive and charming view of the Medway and Thames, the channel below the Nore, and a vaſt circuit in the counties of Kent and Eſſex. The park is now open ground.

Mr. Alderman Stevens, of Rocheſter, has alſo built a good houſe, to which he occaſionally retires, on the knoll of the hill to the weſt of the village.

Shakeſpear has immortalized Gad's-hill, in this pariſh, by his truly comic ſcene between prince Hal and the fat knight. The appropriate ſign of Sir John Falſtaff is very injudiciouſly taken down: it muſt have recalled to the traveller a thouſand

pleasant thoughts ; for who has not read the play of Henry IV., and having read, who has forgotten it ?

Higham, within the diocese and deanry of Rochester, is now a vicarage ; the great tithes having been formerly given to the Benedictine abbey of St. John, in Colchester, but afterwards, by exchange, to the nunnery of Lillechurch, in this parish, and thence granted to St. John's college, in Cambridge, now the patrons ; the vicar, however, has some portion of the great tithe. It is valued in the king's books at 8*l.* 10*s.* The incumbent is the Rev. Richard Hargraves, A. M., master of Rivington school, in Lancashire.

Higham was contributory to the repair of the ninth, the manor of Okeley to the fourth pier of Rochester bridge.

CLIFF, NEAR ROCHESTER.

THIS parish, to the north-east of Higham, was anciently Clive or Bishop's Clive : to distinguish this place from Cliff, near Dover, it is usually called Cliff, near Rochester ; Cliff is significant of the cliff or rock upon which it stands. The parish is five miles from north to south ; nearly three is marsh ; for the Thames winding round the northern boundaries, entirely encloses the unwholesome level : the view is extremely fine from the high land, which is fertile and dry, but towards Cowling the soil is poor and sterile. There are two villages, Cliff or Church-street, on the northern extremity of the upland, on the chalk cliff, romantically hanging over the level marshes below : the large and stately church forming a fine object to those passing along the river and surrounding country. The village of Cliff was once very considerable ; a fire in 1520 much reduced its size and consequence. It still retains a fair held on the festival of St. Pelagius, October 19 ; the ruined and deserted houses evince that it is going fast to still farther decay ; perhaps in another century Cliff will not be the habitation of man. The other village is West-street, about half a mile distant.

This manor and large estate were given to Christ-church, in Canterbury, during the Anglo-Saxon heptarchy ; in the division of the ecclesiastical property between the metropolitans and the priory, the manor and some estates were retained by the monks, whilst others were settled upon the see of Canterbury. At the dissolution Henry VIII. granted the manors of West Cliff and Bury-court, with some estates,

to lord Cobham; West Cliff came to Sir John Brooke, created lord Cobham by Charles I., though the great estates were forfeited by attainure in the preceding reign: this nobleman conveyed the estates to James duke of Richmond and Lenox, and the earl of Darnley now possesses them, who holds courts leet and baron for the manor.

Burye, now Berry-court, after the Cobham attainure was given to the earl of Salisbury, who sold it to the ancestor of its present owner, Jacob Harvey, Esq.

Mallingden, now Molland, and Dean Fee, belonged to Christ-church priory, and was granted by queen Elizabeth to William Ewens; after several alienations it came to the Dykes; a coheirefs of theirs took it to the Acland family; it is now the property of James-Roper Head, Esq., Elizabeth, widow of the Rev. Dr. Lill, of Ireland, and Frances-Mary Head, spinster. Having no court lodge, a court baron is held under a tree for this small manor.

Prior's-hall, a manor which belonged to the priory of Rochester, at its suppression was given by Henry VIII. to the dean and chapter of the see: dean Hardy having a lease, left the benefits of it to charitable uses, chiefly appropriate ones, to the lower officers in that cathedral. The dean and chapter have also the manor of Cardons, which they purchased in 1725.

Mortimer, another manor, vulgarly denominated Blue Gates, is at the southern boundary of Cliff, once the residence of the de Mortimer family; it was purchased in the latter part of the last century of the Polleys, by Robert Lee, of Chatham, gent., whose son, William Lee, Esq., surveyor of the navy under queen Anne, dying at an advanced age in 1757 without issue, left this manor to his relation, Mrs. Ward, of Chatham, with remainder to her brother, rear admiral Henry Ward, both of whom possessed it; the latter dying in 1768, his son Edward-Vernon Ward, Esq., is now the owner.

Courtsole, a large ancient house, near the church-yard, was for many descents the Ropers', who resided here occasionally, until Christopher Roper lord Teynham in 1645 disposed of it to Sir Edward Monins, of Waldersthere, Bart., which family devised Courtsole to Mr. Short, a relation; he alienated it to Mr. Joseph Hasted, whose grandson, Edward Hasted, Esq., the Kentish historian, sold it to Thomas Williams, of Horton, gent.

This parish is a peculiar of Canterbury, and, as such, in the deanry of Shoreham, and diocese of Rochester. The church, dedicated to St. Helen, is one of the largest
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and most handsome in the county; the chancel has its clerical stalls like a collegiate church. Archbishop Arundel's arms are on the roof, and some painted glass continues in the windows; the organ case remains, though the pipes are gone. It is valued in the king's books at 50*l.*: few livings are better in Kent: the rector has a clear 500*l.* without any outgoings. The parsonage-house, situate at West-street, is a large, commodious residence. The rectory is a peculiar jurisdiction, the incumbent having the power to do almost every thing within the parish, as the archbishop of Canterbury has in his diocese, and as such, he has an official seal appropriate to his ecclesiastical court of Cliff. The rector immemorially, until very lately, distributed on St. James's day a mutton pie and a loaf to all who demanded it; the expense was 15*l.* The patronage of the living is in the archbishops of Canterbury, who had great estates in Cliff, until exchanged for others by Henry VIII. The Rev. John Simkinson is the present rector, who holds a court for the manor appendant upon his living, called Parson's borough.

There was once a chapel at West Cliff, but no part of it is remaining.

Some have supposed this place the Clovesho, where so many councils were held in the Anglo-Saxon times, thinking the name Clovesho to have been a compound of Cliff at Hoo; but the best antiquaries fix Cloversho at Abingdon, in Berkshire, which anciently had that name.

Towards that part of the Thames called the Lower Hope, in the marshes, was built in 1796 a battery, mounting four guns, as a farther security to the river.

C O W L I N G.

THE unfrequented, unhealthy, and disagreeable Cowling, lying east of Cliff, was anciently Colinges or Culinges, descriptive of its cold, exposed situation. The extent is more than four miles from north to south, and about half that in breadth. The land is chiefly low marshes; but from Lodge-hill, an eminence, the prospect is extensive. Here are two villages, Cowling-street, and what may be judiciously called Church Cowling. The castle, long since dismantled, raised this parish to consequence.

The lordship of Culinges was earl Leofwyne's, sixth son of earl Godwin, who falling with Harold II., his brother, at Hastings, it went to the rapacious bishop of Bayeux; for many ages it belonged to the Cobhams lords Cobham, afterwards to
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the Brookes alias Cobham, also barons Cobham. John de Cobham obtained leave of Richard II. to embattle and fortify his mansion here; on the eastern tower of the gate-house was a brass tablet in the form of a charter, with his seal appendant, inscribed,

“ Knoweth that beth and shall be
That I am made in help of the contre,
In knowledge of whiche thing
This is chartre and witneffing.”

This inscription was placed to prevent the jealousy of the court. The castle has only two memorable circumstances attending its history: Sir John Oldcastle retired hither to avoid his enemies; had he remained at Cowling he might, perhaps, have escaped his dreadful fate; but leaving this strong asylum, he was seized, tried, sentenced, and executed as an heretic in the presence of his illustrious sovereign, after repeated offers of pardon if he would recant.

Sir Thomas Wyatt the younger, in 1553, coming to Cowling castle, demanded admittance; receiving a denial, he discharged his ordnance, broke the gate, and killed a few of the ill-fated attendants; a conference then took place between the rebel chief and lord Cobham, the noble owner, his relation, whose brothers had joined the former. There was something extraordinary in Wyatt's going; it was still more so in his not being admitted, and most so in not securing it when he was able to gain admittance. Queen Mary was alarmed: she commanded lord Cobham to come to court, and for some time committed him to the Tower. As his behaviour, though mysterious, could not be proved traitorous, he was permitted to return to Cowling: he never, however, regained queen Mary's confidence. If lord Cobham disliked queen Mary's Spanish alliance, he was still more averse to queen Elizabeth's religion; this made him a warm partisan of Mary queen of Scotland—happily for himself and his sovereign, he died in the same year that Elizabeth began her most auspicious reign.

His lordship bequeathed his “household stuff” in Cowling castle to Ann his wife; the castle he devised to Sir William Brooke, his eldest son, who succeeded to his title of lord Cobham; he dying at the end of the sixteenth century, left this castle to his second son George Brooke, Esq., who being implicated in the treason of his eldest brother Henry lord Cobham, was put to death, and his estates confiscated; but James I., compassionating the family, restored the manor, castle, and advowson to his infant son, afterwards Sir William Brooke alias Cobham, knight

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of the Bath, who died in 1668, leaving no issue by his first marriage with Penelope, daughter of Henry lord Dacre: by his second, Penelope, daughter of Sir Moses Hill, he had four daughters and coheirs; Pembroke, married to Matthew Tomlinson, Esq., so immediately concerned in the death of Charles I.; Hill, to Sir William Boothby, of Broadlow-Ash, in Derbyshire, Bart.; Margaret, to Sir John Denham, K. B.; and Frances, to Sir Thomas Whitmore, K. B., who became equally entitled to the estates of their father; but Sir John Denham and his lady dying, and leaving no child, they were shared between the others. A partition took place in 1669: Cowling-lodge with lands adjoining went to Mr. Tomlinson; New-barn, and other lands near it, to Sir William Boothby; and the castle, with some estates, vested in Sir Thomas Whitmore: but the royalties, privileges, and liberties were had in common.

Cowling-lodge fell to the share of Mr. Tomlinson, who narrowly escaped with life at the Restoration, as one of Charles I.'s judges; being alive in 1681, probably he saw the Revolution. At his death his sisters, or their descendants, becoming his heirs, sold Cowling-lodge to Thomas Farrington, of Cheshilhurst, Esq., a descendant of whom passed it to Mr. Jacob Harvey, of Islington; and Samuel-Clay Harvey, Esq., about 1760 erected a seat here, which he called Lodge-hill; though designed for his residence, the estate was sold to Mr. John Smith before the whole was completed; Mr. Smith devised it to his youngest son, who since disposed of it to his brother, Mr. Thomas Smith, of Stroud.

New-barn, with its allotted estate, was sold by Sir William Boothby and his lady to Mr. Samuel Clay, a merchant in London, from whom it went by marriage to the family of Jacob Harvey, Esq., the present possessor.

Cowling-castle, with the estate adjudged to Sir Thomas Whitmore, was conveyed by him to Frederic Herne, Esq., who alienated it to the ancestor of George Best, of Chilston, Esq.

The castle, evidently a place of considerable strength, was square, surrounded with a very deep mote, and lying so near the Thames, must always have been a place of consequence; it has long been in ruins: there still remain some of the walls; and to the south-east, far detached from the castle, the handsome machicolated gateway, with its portcullis; this was the grand entrance to the castle, it now leads to the farm-house. Instead of the courteous knight mounted upon his fiery steed, conducting the beauteous virgin riding upon her palfrey, followed by a

long train of respectful attendants, only the rude rustic is seen driving along the lowing herd to the waiting milk-maid—strange transition!

Cowling, in the diocese and deanry of Rochester, valued in the king's books at 14*l.*, is a rectory: the church is dedicated to St. James. The present incumbent is the Rev. Matthias Rutton, A. M., also vicar of Sheldwich, in Kent.

F R I N D S B U R Y.

TO the south of Cowling is Frindsbury, anciently Freondesbyri, a parish skirted on the east, and much on the south, by the Thames; extending five miles from north to south, but not half that breadth in the contrary direction. There are few spots more diversified: its church stands picturesque; but the finest view from Frindsbury is at the Quarry-house, which being exactly opposite to Chatham dock, commands a most charming prospect of the river, town, yard, and the surrounding country. In the low part next the river are extensive salt marshes, covered by every high tide. The hills are chiefly chalk, the dales loam; towards Hoo, clay: the whole rich in corn. The great London road goes through the south part of the parish, which joins those of Higham and Cobham, at the hamlet of Three Crouches, a name significant of its having had three crosses erected there by the several districts.

The most consequential thing in Frindsbury is Upnor castle, built by queen Elizabeth for the security of the river, now used as a magazine for gunpowder to supply the navy: the establishment consists of a governor, store-keeper, clerk of the cheque, a master, and twelve other gunners, with inferior persons. Under the governor is always a guard or detachment of soldiers. The south tower of the castle was appropriated for his residence; but the governor, gunners, soldiers, and commanding officer have good apartments in the commodious barracks built near the castle, where there is a suitable house for the store-keeper, and gardens to supply the whole with vegetables. The governor has the command of all the forts on the Thames, Sheerness alone excepted. These forts, however, are rather nominal than real, except Cliff; the others are the Swamp, now the Bird's-nest, which has long lost its guns, and whose earthen embrasures, covered with bushes, are mouldering away. Cockham wood fort, a mile below, is also entirely ruinous; yet it has a master-gunner, usually an invalid, and a quarter-gunner, the former in the gift of the master-general of the ordnance. Hoones fort, usually

called the Folly, lying beyond the last, though it has not a gun mounted, yet is not deserted, having a master-gunner from Upnor castle, who having resided a week, is succeeded by another: a boat is allowed to transport provisions. Cliff fort has been, and Gillingham will be noticed. Frindsbury has now its dock, rope-yard, and other suitable accompaniments on the banks of the Medway, where large men of war have been built with great convenience; the land upon which the dock stands is part of what is the Quarry-house estate.

The manor of Frindsbury, with those dependent upon it, granted to the cathedral church of Rochester by the heptarchical kings, was lost during the Danish usurpations: having been the estate of Harold II., William I. gave it to Odo his half brother, from whom it was recovered by Gundulph bishop of Rochester, who allotted the manor of Frindsbury and its appendages to the monastery of St. Andrew's, except the advowson, which bishop Gilbert de Glanville regained. Henry VIII. gave the manor and that of Rede-court, in this parish, to the dean and chapter of Rochester: the lessee of the former is Philip Boghurst, Esq., whose father built a handsome court-lodge near the church; the lessee of Rede-court is Mr. John Boghurst, of Stroud.

Hessingham manor, anciently Æssingham, was once of so much consequence as to give name to the parish, which was formerly called Æssingham alias Frindsbury: bishop Gundulph gave it to Godfrey Talbot; it afterwards went to the St. Cleres, and was one of the few estates purchased by Cromwell earl of Essex, the wife minister and rapacious vicar-general of Henry VIII. Queen Elizabeth granted it to Sir William Drury; a descendant of his sold it to the Clerkes, of whom it was purchased by the ancestor of its present possessor, Thomas Best, of Boxley, Esq.

John bishop of Rochester built a chapel dedicated to St. Peter, and endowed it with the tithes, liberties, and customs arising within the manor; out of which was paid 10s. to the person who had the cure of Frindsbury manor, thirty sheaves of wheat, thirty of barley, and thirty of oats to the mother church, as a compensation for the fees due at the burial of the servants of the lords of the manor; it was further stipulated, that the lord of Hessingham, his wife, sons, and daughters, should be buried at the church of Frindsbury, because otherwise that church would lose the obit money, with suitable bequests, which in those ages constituted a great part of the parochial income to the incumbent; these regulations settled, the lord of Hessingham was permitted to have the chaplain he chose reside in the house,
and

and sit at his table: this is a picture of ancient times. Now Hellingham has lost its chapel, the lord resides in another parish, and the seat is a farm-house.

Bromhey or Bromgeheg, given by Egbert king of Kent, and confirmed by the illustrious Offa king of Mercia, to the church of Rochester, was then in the limits of a castle called Hrofecaester. Afterwards the estate was divided: the prelates of Rochester had a share; Hamo Noble, called de Hethe, in 1337, at a great expense repaired his grange or farm-house here; the de Cobham family possessed the remainder, which descended with the estates of that family; it forms a part of the rich domains of the earl of Darnley. Bromhey had also a chapel in the beginning of the fourteenth century; all traces of it are now lost.

Chattenden, an estate containing 655 acres of land, was, as an appendage to Frindsbury manor, part of the possessions of the abbey of Rochester: at the dissolution Henry VIII. gave it to the ennobled family of Brooke or Cobham; James I. granted it to the Stuarts dukes of Richmond and Lenox; it is now owned by lord Darnley.

Goddington was the residence of the Goddingtons, and afterwards of the Waltons, who obtained this seat and manor by marrying the sole heiress of a Snaith; the Wattons alienated it in Charles II.'s reign to the Barrells; the niece of the last possessor of that name took it to her husband Josiah Marshall, Esq.; their son, the Rev. Edmund Marshall, late vicar of Charing, sold it in 1780 to Mr. Thomas Ayres, who rebuilt the seat, and dying in 1796 left it to his niece, Mrs. Mary-Ann Hopkins; she sold it to the present owner, George Gunning, Esq.

Wainscot, a manor, once called, from its owners, Parlabeins-yoke, came to the Colepepers, of Aylesford, and in this century has been alienated to the Goldings, the Brookes of Town Malling, the late Rev. Edward Holme, and the present possessor, Mr. John Boghurst, who holds courts leet and baron for the manor.

Mr. David-Hermitage Day, of Rochester, brewer, has a handsome modern brick seat, called Little Hermitage, very near the great road, and some distance from the pond called St. Thomas's watering-place. Two or three years ago this house was struck by lightning in the upper story in an horizontal direction, going entirely through the longest way of the whole building.

Frindsbury, within the diocese and deanry of Rochester, is a vicarage, valued in the king's books at 10*l.* 3*s.* 11½*d.*; the great tithes and advowson belong to the bishops of Rochester. The church, a neat structure, adorned with many monu-

ments, is dedicated to All Saints ; the present incumbent is the Rev. W. P. Menzies, A. M., a minor canon of Rochester.

This parish anciently contributed to the repair of the fifth pier of Rochester bridge.

S T R O U D.

SOUTH of Frindsbury is Stroud, the Strodes of the Textus Roffensis, divided in its civil jurisdiction into Stroud infra, and Stroud extra ; the one belonging to that of the county justices, the other to the corporation of Rochester. It is one of the " three towns," Stroud, Rochester, and Chatham ; they appear but one place, consisting of a very long street. Stroud has its church at the west, and Rochester bridge at the east termination. The inhabitants are shopkeepers, publicans, sailors, fishermen, and oyster dredgers. They have had a three days fair commencing August 17th, given them in king John's reign, which is now become very considerable. Since the act passed in 1769 for new paving, lighting, and watching, this place has greatly improved, being now little inferior to Rochester.

The manor is called Stroud Temple, from its having been given by Henry II. to the Knights Templars, who had a mansion here, which is still remaining. Henry VIII. at the dissolution gave the estate to Edward Elrington *in capite*, who, with Grace his wife, passed it to the lords Cobham, and lately it was purchased of the Blagnes by the uncle of its present owner, Thomas Whitaker, of Trottescliffe, Esq.

Goddington gave name to a family, by whom it was granted to Rochester abbey ; at the dissolution Henry VIII. settled it upon the dean and chapter of Rochester : this manor is held under the dutchy of Lancaster.

The Yoke or North Yoke is a small manor, now possessed by the Rev. Samuel Denne, as trustee to the late Mrs. Mary Thornton, daughter of the Rev. Stephen Thornton, of Luddefdon.

Newark or Stroud hospital, dedicated to the honour of God and the Virgin Mary, was erected by Gilbert de Glanville bishop of Rochester, in the beginning of Richard I.'s reign. It was raised for the purpose of praying for the souls of the bishop, his predecessor, successors, and benefactors, the restoration of Christianity in the Holy Land, the redemption of Richard I., to receive and relieve the poor, sick, and infirm of the neighbourhood, and travellers, and to supply them with beds, food, and liquor, until their departure : it seemed needless that the
remainder

remainder of the revenues should be directed to be given to the poor in general, when such an institution demanded the wealth of a province. The hospital was placed directly under the cognisance of the pope, the archbishop of Canterbury, and the bishop of Rochester: great contests arose between the confreres and the monks of Rochester; the former lived very little according to the intencion of the founder, until bishop Hamo Noble ordained that they should live and dress according to the rule of St. Austin, and, to their mortification, obliged them to residence; and as an acknowledgment that their revenues were taken from Rochester abbey, to wear the white crosses of St. Andrew upon their garments. At the dissolution their revenues amounted to 52*l.* 9*s.* 10½*d.*; all which Henry VIII. judiciously gave, first to the priory, and a few months afterwards to the dean and chapter of Rochester. The manors of Boncakes or Newark, and Hawkins, were in this parish; a court baron is still held for the former. The hospital stood on the north side of the high-street in Stroud, near the church-yard; the scite, retaining its name, is so covered with subsequent buildings, as to exhibit little of the old structure: the almonry, now a stable, is the most perfect part.

The parish, in the diocese and deanry of Rochester, has a large Gothic church, dedicated to St. Nicholas, formerly a chapel to Frindsbury: the incumbent is only perpetual curate: the present one is the Rev. John-Ward Allen. The dean and chapter of Rochester, who are patrons, have the tithes, but liberally demise them, with all the other emoluments, for the annual acknowledgment of one penny rent. It is not valued in the king's books.

Stroud is the utmost extremity prescribed by this work; but as it will be a gratification, no doubt, to the reader, to know the present state of places of so much consequence as Rochester and Chatham, it is meant to give a sketch of them and their environs, including Sheernefs.

R O C H E S T E R.

THE entrance from Stroud to Rochester is by a most elegant bridge, whose length is 560 feet: lately it has been considerably widened, new faced with stone, with balustrades of the same, substituted for old parapet walls or iron railing: the two central arches are to be thrown into one; the whole number will then be ten: the expence is estimated at 35,000*l.* This bridge has ever been of the greatest importance;

portance; in ancient times there was a wooden one, in a more direct line from Rochester and Stroud; the date of the present one is not known. Our monarchs have given and enlarged the powers of the bridge company, consisting of two wardens and twelve assistants, annually chosen, who are a community with a common seal, and vested with great powers, and a revenue of 1000*l.* per annum arising chiefly from estates: no society has ever better performed the duties entrusted to it. The levies from the various parishes who anciently were assessed to repair the bridge have long ceased. A few years ago a row of houses stood on one side the lane, which rendered the road to it very confined; the company took them down, and finding that accidents often happened by the shortness of the turn, the corner houses have just been removed. When the ground is paved, the entrance to this noble bridge will be suitably spacious. The whole money for these necessary improvements is raised by the company, or borrowed of the neighbouring nobility, gentry, or barge owners, which are to be paid off in lots. At the east end Sir John de Cobham, one of its founders, built a chapel or chantry, once the usual accompaniment to great bridges. The bridge chamber on its site, built by the wardens in 1735, is a neat stone edifice, having upon it the arms of the principal benefactors to the bridge: here are held weekly, quarterly, and annual meetings.

Rochester, the *Durobrivæ* of the Romans, and *Hroucecaester* of the Saxons, contains little more than one street; in the Anglo-Saxon times it was rather a castle than a city: it was once enclosed within walls; the remains are visible at present. It forms, with Chatham, one long continued place. The jurisdiction of the city was formerly the hundred, now the city and liberty, of Rochester.

The first object that presents itself after passing the bridge is the castle, once a strong fortification, now a ruin; built, it is supposed, by William the Conqueror, upon the site of a Roman one: it stands on a small eminence near the Medway; the form is almost quadrangular; the dimensions 300 feet square within the walls, which are seven feet thick, and twenty high: on one side, the Medway secured it, on the other a deep broad ditch, now nearly filled up. Some of the square towers on the angles and sides remain; that on the south-east angle is so lofty as to be seen at twenty miles distance; it has the same form as the castle. To avoid particulars of what is no longer useful, it will be sufficient to remark, that on the third floor were the state rooms, thirty-two feet in height, separated by columns, forming four grand

grand arches, curiously ornamented, and upon the whole give us a flattering specimen of the architecture of the age in which they were built.

This castle was always of importance; the Danes often annoyed, and in the reign of Alfred would have possessed themselves of it, had he not, with his usual expedition, flown to the spot, and obliged them to seek refuge in their vessels. Odo bishop of Bayeux made this his residence, and the scene of his violence; here his half-brother William the Conqueror having seized, sent him to Normandy, when just ready to sail to Rome with all his ill-acquired wealth, being desirous to employ it in purchasing the popedom. In Rufus's reign, unbroken by a long imprisonment, coming over, he acted the same turbulent part, and was again seized by his new sovereign: a treaty was agreed upon; he promised to deliver up this castle; but acting with that duplicity which so peculiarly marked his character, the king marched against, and took it by storm. Simon Montford earl of Leicester, and the other confederate barons, besieged this castle; but Henry III.'s chief constable, Roger de Leyborne, with the earls of Arundel and Warren, and Henry Delamaine, bravely withstood every attack, and the besiegers were obliged to quit the enterprise. Rochester castle, except in the reigns of Henry I. and John, who gave it to the see of Canterbury, was always in possession of the sovereign, until James I. granted the castle to Sir Anthony Weldon. It was lately the property of lady Ducie, upon whose death in 1793, the trustees under Mr. Child's will have the care of this, with his other great estates. At some distance the castle appears perfect; and so strong are the walls, that though all the timber, lead, and whatever else could be sold, has been long taken away; yet it may remain for ages in its present form, if not purposely destroyed. Many urns and lachrymatories, found on Bully or Boley hill, near the castle, mark out with precision the place of sepulture of the Romans while they remained at Rochester.

The cathedral is a very disagreeable looking edifice at a distance, from its large, cumbrous spire. The western entrance is very fine; the nave is small, and has nothing attractive; the choir is extremely elegant. The original church was built about the year of Christ 600; the present nave by bishop Gundulph, who sat from 1077 to 1107; the choir by William de Hoo, sacrist, who has been dead about 570 years. Amongst the contributors to its present grandeur, bishop Hamo Noble was conspicuous; in 1343 he raised the tower, covered it with lead, and placed in it four bells, which he named DUNSTAN, PAULINUS, ITHAMAR,

and LANFRANC. The present steeple was built in 1749; it is 136 feet high, and has six bells. The church is curiously vaulted with stone; the columns are Petworth marble, of a greenish grey colour: the choir has been greatly improved, and laid with Bremen and Portland stone, and the altar paved with black and white marble, at the expense of a lady. The altar-piece, of Norway oak, is elegant; archbishop Herring, once dean of Rochester, gave 50*l.* towards the decorations. A painting by West, of the Angels appearing to the Shepherds, is in the centre: the episcopal throne was at the expense of bishop Wilcocks in 1743, when the present wainscot stalls and pews were set up; the old organ was replaced in 1791, with an excellent one built by Green. The neatness of every part of this very ancient structure does the dean and chapter great credit; and when we consider that during the Usurpation the nave was converted into a carpenter's shop and yard, with its accompaniments of saw-pits, &c., the wonder is, that the whole was not destroyed, especially the monuments of the ancient prelates. The pious and munificent Dr. Warner, who died in 1666, in his eighty-sixth year, was the last who was buried in this cathedral: his executors, in a single instance, acted contrary to the directions of his will, by erecting a monument to his memory. Rochester has been peculiarly fortunate in her prelates; the six preceding the present one never were translated from the see, and all died at very advanced ages. The learned and right rev. Samuel Horsley, S. T. P., now presides over the diocese, being the ninety-first in succession. In the king's books this see is valued at 358*l.* 4*s.* 9½*d.*; the annual income is not more than 600*l.*, but the deanry of Westminster is generally held with it. The deanry of Rochester is about 400*l.* per annum; the present dean is the Rev. Thomas Dampier, D. D. The archdeaconry is rated in the king's books at 34*l.* 14*s.* 9½*d.*: little emolument accrues from it, but that is compensated by a presentation to some good parochial preferment: the present archdeacon is the Rev. John Law, S. T. P. There are six prebendaries: the income of each stall is near 300*l.* a year, with a good prebendal house. The six minor canons reside in pleasant ones, forming what is called Minor Canon row; and besides these are inferior officers. The prelates of Rochester anciently had a suitable palace near the cathedral: cardinal bishop Fisher, who fell beneath the axe in Henry VIII.'s reign, was the last who resided in it. The present building, erected upon its site, is not older than the last century, and is leased out. Francis Head, Esq., left a good mansion at St. Margaret's Hill for the residence of the prelates, when they came

to the city ; but this has never been used by them, and is also leased out. The deanry is handsome, and the prebendal houses are good. The bishops of Rochester, as chaplains to the primates of Canterbury, were formerly appointed by them, but they are now nominated by the sovereign, and elected by the chapter.

There is only one parish within the walls, which is St. Nicholas'. The church is only a few yards distant from the cathedral ; over the entrance is, "*Hæc ecclesia* "*Re-edificata dedicata xix die Septembr. anno 1624. Tempore majoratus Johis De-* "*clinge.*" There is nothing worthy notice in the inside. It is a vicarage, valued in the king's books at 20*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.* ; the patronage is in the diocesan. The present incumbent is the Rev. William Wrighte, one of the secretaries to the Society of Antiquaries. There was once another church within the walls, St. Clement's, but it has long been defecrated ; and by Edward VI. the rectory was given to St. Margaret's parish : some small remains of the church are visible ; it was not more than forty feet wide, and of proportionable length, yet sufficiently capacious for the smallness of the parish in which it stood. Without the walls is St. Margaret's parish, in the street which bears its name, but better known as Rochester-street. It is a vicarage, in the patronage of the dean and chapter, charged in the king's books at 10*l.* The present incumbent is the Rev. Arnold Carter, A. M., a minor canon. There was another church called St. Mary's without the gates, but not even a relic of this remains.

Of the long-famed monastery of St. Andrew, little is standing except the tower leading to the cathedral. It was founded in the year 600 by St. Augustine for secular priests, who were displaced by bishop Gundulph in 1080 in favour of Benedictine monks. At the dissolution it was valued at 486*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.* per annum ; the revenues were chiefly appropriated by Henry VIII. to the endowment of this deanry and chapter. In the street, some distance from the bridge, is the town-hall, a handsome brick building, supported with coupled columns of stone, in the Doric order ; the ascent to which is by a spacious staircase. The room, large and elegant, has a ceiling curiously ornamented with military trophies, fruits, and flowers : the walls are adorned with fine portraits of William III. and queen Anne, by Kneller, Sir Cloudefley Shovel, Sir John Jennings, Sir Thomas Colby, Sir Joseph Williamson, Mr. Watts, Sir John Lake, Sir Thomas Palmer, and Sir Stafford Fairborne. Here the city business is transacted, and in it the judges have frequently also held the county assizes. On the outside is, " This building was

“ erected in the year 1687, John Bryan, Esq., then mayor.” Some distance below is another marble tablet, inscribed, “ These pavements were given by the Hon. Sir Stafford Fairborne, Anno Dom. 1706, John Burges, Esq., mayor;” alluding to the fine stone pavement before the town-hall, which is now used as a market-place for fish, vegetables, and fruit. The falcon at the top of the tablet is probably the crest of Fairborne. On the same side is another handsome structure called the clock-house, which has been newly repaired; it stands upon the site of the ancient guildhall, and bears this inscription: “ The present building was erected at the sole charge and expense of Sir Cloudesley Shovel, knight, A. D. MDCCVI. He represented this city in parliament in the reign of king William the Third, and in the parliament in the reign of queen Ann. Richard Thompson, mayor, 1795.”

The royal grammar-school adjoining the priory gate was founded by Henry VIII. for the education of twenty boys called king's scholars: their dress of blue cloth is in the fashion of Henry's time. Here are four exhibitions of 5*l.* each paid by the church to as many scholars, until they obtain the degree of master of arts, if they remain so long in the university without having a fellowship: two of the scholars are sent to Oxford, and two to Cambridge. There are two masters placed over the boys. The Rev. Robert Gunsley, rector of Titsey, in Surrey, devised in 1618 to University college, Oxford, 60*l.* per annum to maintain four scholars, natives of Kent, with a preference of those of his name and kindred, to be chosen from the free grammar-schools of Maidstone and Rochester; each to be allowed chambers and 15*l.* a year.

More to the east, opposite the prior's gate, is Cheldegate-lane, so called from one of the ancient gates of the city; at the bottom of it is a large suitable poor's-house of brick, built in 1724; towards the expenses of its erection Sir Thomas Palmer, and Sir John Jennings, who represented the city in parliament, gave 500*l.*: the poor are industriously kept in spinning worsted and yarn.

Farther towards Chatham is the custom-house, and next to it a white edifice, with very singular inscriptions, expressing by whom, when, and for what purpose built; they are transcribed, as having, it is believed, never been entirely given to the public—

“ Richard Watts, Esq., first devised An. 1579, Relief for Travellers, to be had after death of Maria his wife, which she, by the help of Thomas Pagitt her
“ second

“ second husband, assured, An. 1586; died 31 of December, 1580. The
 “ mayor and citizens of this city, and dean and chapter of the cathedral, and come-
 “ nality of the bridge are to see this executed for ever.” Below this is,

“ Richard Watts, Esq.
 by his will dated 22d of August, 1579,
 founded this charity,
 for six poor travellers,
 who, not being rogues or proctors,
 may receive gratis, for one night,
 lodging, entertainment,
 and fourpence each.”

“ In testimony of his munificence, in honour of his memory, and inducement to
 “ his example, Nathaniel Ward, Esq., the present mayor, hath caused this stone
 “ gratefully to be renewed and inscribed, A. D. 1771.” On one of the wings
 is, “ Thomas Pagitt, second husband of Maria, daughter of Thomas Somer, of
 “ Halso, widow of Richard Watts, deceased. These An. 1599.” On the other
 wing opposite to it is a shield baron and femme, with labels, and “ Pagitt” and
 “ Somers” on each side; the arms are a cross invecked, in the first quarter an
 escallop shell, impaling vert, a fesse ermine. The rents of the lands belonging to
 this charity have arisen from 36*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* to 500*l.* After fulfilling the intention of
 the donor in lodging and relieving poor travellers, not rogues or proctors, the
 remainder is given to other charitable purposes.

The hospital, once the spital of St. Catherine, founded by Simon Polyn in 1316,
 escaping the general wreck at the dissolution, stands in the high-street of the suburb
 of Eastgate, was rebuilt in 1717, and gives asylum to twelve aged persons, who
 are allowed twelve chaldrons of coals, and six dozen of candles amongst them, and
 1*l.* 6*s.* each yearly.

The free-school founded by Sir Joseph Williamson in 1701, is a handsome
 brick building, on the north side of the high-street, with a very long Latin inscrip-
 tion above the entrance: here the sons of freemen of the corporation are educated
 and instructed in mathematics, and other branches of science, especially such as are
 nautical. There is an ample provision for the support of this foundation; the
 head master is allowed 100*l.* per annum, and the under one 40*l.* with each a house.
 It must be remarked that the first master was Mr. John Colson, afterwards mathe-
 matical professor of Cambridge; and the inimitable Garrick was under his tuition

whilst presiding over this school: at this early age genius shone forth, and proclaimed a future Roscius—the remembrance of his youthful talents is fondly treasured up by the inhabitants of Rochester. This city has to boast of as many public charities as any one of the same size in the kingdom.

St. Margaret's hill near Chatham is now built upon, and joins that town: there are some very good houses detached from the high-street, that stand very pleasantly. Rochester, since it has been new paved and cleaned, is a neat, elegant place, the residence of many genteel and opulent persons. No place can be better supplied with food than this; a variety of the finest fish is constantly brought for sale, and they have a market on Friday for pigs, poultry, butter, vegetables, &c. in the area leading to the court-hall; and on the same day for meat in the shambles within the clock-house. But Chatham has superseded the necessity for this last—a monthly Tuesday's market has lately been established for cattle; and they have two fairs, one by charter, the other by prescription, upon the feasts St. Dunstan and St. Andrew, each of which lasts three days; on the first principally for cattle.

This, though one of the smallest, is not the most inconsiderable of our cities: few have had greater immunities and privileges granted or confirmed by English monarchs. The government is by a mayor, eleven other aldermen, twelve assistants or common council, a recorder, town-clerk, two chamberlains, a principal sergeant at mace, water-bailiff, and inferior officers. The present and late mayor, elder aldermen, and recorder, are justices of peace within the limits of the corporation: small debts in the city and adjoining parishes are recoverable in their court. Rochester has returned members to the house of commons from the time of Edward I. The present representatives are Sir Richard King, Bart., admiral of the blue, and the Hon. Henry Tufton, brother to the earl of Thanet.

Rochester gave title of viscount to Sir Robert Carr, afterwards created earl of Somerset, and elected knight of the garter, whose subsequent crimes made him an object of detestation and scorn: his munificent sovereign, James I., whose confidence he had so shamefully abused, would not permit his merited death; but his alarmed conscience, aided by a universal defection, made life a misfortune, not a blessing to him.

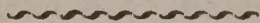
The loyal Henry Wilmot, only son of Charles viscount Wilmot, of Athlone, in Ireland, the faithful and confidential servant of his royal masters Charles I. and Charles II., was raised to the earldom of Rochester, by patent dated at Paris, in

1652, as some recompence for the troubles his steady loyalty had occasioned: dying at Dunkirk in 1659, his body was brought over and buried at Spillbury, in Oxfordshire: by Ann, daughter of Sir John St. John, he was father of John, the witty, profligate, and repentant earl of Rochester, who died July 26th, 1680, leaving, by a rich heiress, Miss Elizabeth Mallet, of Enmore, in Somersetshire, Charles, an only son, who dying in November 1681 a minor, and unmarried, the title became extinct.

Laurence Hyde, viscount Hyde, second son of the great chancellor and minister, was created by Charles II. in 1682 earl of Rochester; his lordship was brother-in-law to James II., and maternal uncle to queen Anne. During four reigns he filled the most important offices in England and Ireland, and was elected knight of the garter; dying in 1711 he was succeeded by Henry his son; his first cousin, Edward earl of Clarendon, leaving no male issue, that earldom also vested in him. His only son, viscount Cornbury, dying a little before him, both titles became extinct, and that of Rochester has never been revived.

To give a relation of every royal visit that Rochester has been honoured with, would exceed all bounds—the heptarchical kings, the Anglo-Saxon monarchs, often came hither; and after the Norman conquest, being in the direct road to our sovereigns' continental dominions, there are few of our kings until queen Mary's reign who have not been here in their passage to France, and since that time most of them on some occasion or other. Queen Elizabeth, in her progress round the coasts of Suffex and Kent in 1573, remained at Rochester five days; she attended divine service the day after her arrival, and heard a sermon in the cathedral. The benevolent Mr. Watts, at whose mansion she resided, expressing his concern that his house was too small to accommodate her majesty, she graciously answered SATIS (enough): that word has since given name to the house now owned by Mr. Longley the recorder; it is a large, handsome, brick building. James I. and his royal brother-in-law, Frederic II. of Denmark, visited this city in 1606, and heard a sermon by Dr. Parry, dean of Chester, the greatest orator in the kingdom. Charles II. at his return from banishment was received by the loyal citizens with the sincerest joy; the mayor and corporation presented the king with a silver basin and ewer. His majesty slept that night at colonel Gibbon's, who has been repeatedly mentioned as receiving grants of royal and episcopal lands during the Usurpation, and which by this return of his sovereign he was upon the point of losing. The colonel's mansion
has

has since had the name of Restoration-house. That unfortunate, misguided monarch James II., came to Rochester December 19, 1688, and remained until the 23d at the house of Sir Richard Head, Bart., when, with the duke of Berwick and two others, embarking in a tender, he left Britain never to return.



C H A T H A M.

THE town of Chatham, united to Rochester by the continuance of the long street, is no otherwise known from that city and its suburbs than by having the houses of less magnitude; for here, instead of gentry and wealthy tradesmen, are found chiefly persons usually resident in sea-port towns. From the great street are some detached ones, especially at Slicket's hill, where a small town has lately been formed as it were of itself. Some years ago this place was disgusting from its filth; then the houses projected, making it dark and gloomy; being unpaved it became absolutely impassable to strangers—yet the inhabitants obstinately refused to unite with Rochester and Stroud to procure an act of parliament to pave, light, and cleanse it. A road was cut at great expense behind the town in 1769, through high hills of chalk and gravel, filling up with the excavated materials the deep valleys. At length, made sensible of their foolish prejudices, they unanimously subscribed towards improving their town; and in 1772 one gentleman generously defrayed the whole expense, about 250*l.*, of procuring an act of parliament: a more extensive one was obtained in 1776. Since then Chatham has much increased in size and population, and become a clean, neat place; the street, moderately spacious and well lighted: the expense of this change has been at the easy rate of only 9*d.* in the pound. Its Saturday's market of meat, poultry, and vegetables, supplies itself, and even Rochester. There are two fairs, one on May 15, the other on September 19, which continue for three days each, chiefly for clothing, millinery, pedlary, toys, and such articles.

The first thing that arrests attention on entering Chatham from Rochester, is the victualling-office, placed on the north side the street, where the royal navy here, at Sheerness, and the Nore, are supplied with provisions, especially beef and pork. There are cooperage, pickling, baking, cutting, slaughter, and store houses. Lately a new wharf has been made, and more buildings erected for the service and convenience

nience of this office, which is under the control of an agent-victualler and a store-keeper.

A little farther on the right was St. Bartholomew's hospital, founded by an unknown person, at an early period, for lepers: Henry III. confirmed its privileges, and Edward III. discharged it from taxes, tallage, &c. Escaping the common dissolution, the estates in 1627 were vested in the dean and chapter of Rochester as governors and patrons. There are now four brethren, two of whom are in orders. Some part of the original edifice is converted into a small chapel, still called St. Bartholomew's, where the people of this part of Chatham attend public worship; William Walter, of Chatham, Esq., in 1743, enlarged, new pewed, and built the steeple.

Opposite to this is Sir John Hawkins's hospital, finished in 1592, and incorporated by queen Elizabeth at the request of the founder. One of the governors having given 500*l.*, it has been lately rebuilt, and makes a handsome appearance to the street, which it fronts. The annual sum given by Sir John Hawkins was only 66*l.*, and no other has added to the income except Robert Davis, a poor, honest seaman, who fell in battle in 1692, who bequeathed 60*l.*, his little all, which his executrix punctually paid. The pensioners, reduced from twelve to ten, receive lodging and 3*s.* 6*d.* weekly, and a chaldron of coals yearly; they must be maimed, disabled, or otherwise distressed seamen, belonging to the royal fleet; and a suitable provision is made to instruct them in the truths and comforts of religion. The deputy governor resides in the principal house, and receives an additional fee of 2*l.* The visitor is the archbishop of Canterbury. The governors are twenty-six: of these, four are elective; the others are great official characters. This excellent institution has been unaccountably neglected by a body of men as liberal as brave, and whose profession more than any other unites its great, with the humble members. Over the old gate was,

“ The poor you shall always have with you: to whom ye may do good yf ye wyl.”

Near the east end of the high-street is the large poor's-house, built in 1726 by voluntary subscription, and capable of containing great part of the very numerous paupers.

The chief object of every stranger is principally the store-houses, dock, and barracks. Queen Elizabeth viewed, enlarged, improved, and built Upnor-castle to protect

protect this dock ; knowing the importance of her naval strength, and that commerce was the natural mean of aggrandizing her subjects. James I. improved the arts of peace, and under his government the blessings of wealth acquired by merchandise, made his reign more solid than brilliant ; a native timidity, aided by an acquired prodigality, prevented his uniting a martial spirit with the wisdom of peace. This monarch, finding that the old dock was become too small for the purposes designed, removed the naval yard to its present situation, and appropriated the former one to the office of ordnance. This is a long narrow point of land below the chalk cliff to the north of Chatham town, between the church and the river. Here the eye is gratified with long tiers of guns and pyramids of cannon-balls upon the wharf ; under cover are carriages for the artillery, with many kinds of naval stores ; and a small armory of muskets, pistols, cutlasses, pikes, poleaxes, and other offensive weapons. A store-keeper, clerk of the survey, of the cheque, two extra clerks, and other officers, preside over this department : the former has a good house.

The royal naval dock adjoins the former ; it probably had been used towards the end of the reign of queen Elizabeth ; James I. formed it into a regular one, and Charles I. greatly improved it by enlarging and forming new docks, capable of floating ships with the tide. Charles II. visited this dock in 1660, and saw there the Royal Sovereign of 100 guns. This monarch, whose abilities were confessedly great, directed his attention to naval affairs, knew the construction of and improved the ships of war in several respects.

Every thing here astonishes the spectator, and must give him an idea of the greatness of our strength at sea, and of the care taken to retain that superiority which the four quarters of the world acknowledge we possess. The entrance is by a spacious, handsome gateway, flanked by two embattled towers : all strangers are obliged to give a satisfactory account of themselves, and receive a written leave before they go farther. The eye is every where gratified with the elegant apartments of the commissioner, and other principal officers ; the vast store-houses, one of them 660 feet in length ; the work-rooms suitable to the design for which they are erected ; the sail-loft 209 feet long ; the immense stowages of sails, rigging, hemp, flax, pitch, tar, rosin, the coils of cordage, heaps of blocks, and every thing that can be wanting in shipping, and all this with such exactitude, that no confusion can arise on the most sudden emergency : to a person unacquainted with nautical affairs it exceeds credibility,

and still more when he is told how much one of our largest ships takes of each requisite to furnish it.

The store-houses for masts of all sizes also occasion great astonishment : one of them is 236 feet by 120. Here are masts nearly 120 feet long, and thirty-six inches in diameter ; basins of water receive them, to prevent their cracking. The smith's forge appears the native residence of Vulcan, having twenty-one fires ; the labour these sons of heat endure may be imagined, when it is mentioned that anchors of almost five tons are wrought here. The old rope-house was 700, the new one is 1140 feet in length ; cables of 120 fathom long, and twenty-two inches round, are twisted here. For laying down or repairing ships are four docks, of such depth and size, that vessels of the largest dimensions have been built in them ; the most remarkable have been the new Royal George, the Queen Charlotte, of 100 guns each, and the Ville de Paris of 110. These, when building, appeared such immense wooden edifices, that it might be supposed another deluge was apprehended, and that the intended floating structure was to contain some of each species, that they might be saved from a second wreck of nature. To see the workmen go to their houses at stated times, and in one body, especially the carpenters, is a most pleasing sight. The whole of the dock is a mile in length, and on the land side surrounded with a high wall. The officers employed by government are a commissioner, allowed three clerks, a clerk of the cheque, store-keeper, master shipwright or builder, clerk of the survey, two master attendants, two master shipwrights, assistants, master calker, clerk of the rope-yard, master rope-maker, boatswain, purveyor, surgeon, and many inferior officers.

Leaving the dock-yard, the lower barracks present themselves ; buildings which are large, handsome, and uniform, with a fine spacious enclosed area : the approach to them and the dock-yard is by a double road, shaded with lime and walnut trees.

The church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, is near the old dock, and quite detached from the town. The ancient church being burnt, the present was built in 1352 ; in 1635 it was repaired, the west end rebuilt and enlarged, and a steeple erected, all at the expense of the commissioners of the navy. Commissioner St. Loe in 1707 built a gallery on the south side for the use of the navy and ordinary. The place increasing so much, it became necessary to rebuild it upon a larger scale, except the spire ; the requisite sum was raised by a brief, and parochial assessment : the present edifice is brick. This inscription is on the outside—" The body of this

“ church, with the chancel, was taken down and rebuilt in the year 1788; John Law, D. D., minister; Mr. William Wilfon, Mr. Francis-Steele Bond, church-wardens; Mr. John Southerden, surveyor.” The inside is peculiarly neat, with west, south, and north galleries, and the walls much covered with neat marble monumental tablets, which had been in the former church. There are painted busts of Rainold Barker, Esq., lord of the manor, who died December 26, 1609, and Ann his wife, who died January 9, 1615, who after his death was married to Sir Michael Sands, of Throngley, in Kent, Knt. The white marble monument of Kenricke Edisbury, of Marchwell, in Denbighshire, Esq., surveyor of the navy, who died in 1638, exhibiting him to the waist, resting his right hand upon a skull, and holding a book in his left, is a fine piece of sculpture. The cemetery is crowded with tombs and grave-stones: the ground being too small for the number of interments, the office of ordnance has given a large piece of land at some distance.

Leaving the church and ascending the hill, are the upper barracks, which rise one above the other, having enclosed courts; they make a very handsome appearance, occupying a large space of land; like the lower, they are of brick, and every part shows the exact neatness and order observed in them: there are always five regiments of soldiers, and a battalion of artillery, in these barracks.

The vast fortifications extend themselves on all sides, covering a very large tract of land, procured by several acts of parliament, and are capable of protecting the whole of this “ grand arsenal of the navy of Great Britain.” On the summit of the hill is Amherst’s redoubt: these entrenchments are not fully perfected, as it is intended still farther to enlarge them.

At the top of the hill is the delightful village of Brompton, built within memory, consisting of several streets, and a range of houses very appropriately called Prospect-row. There is no where a finer view than this hill affords; for, turning to the south, may be seen in the valley the Medway expanding itself until it becomes a large basin, capable of holding a great fleet, and where vessels of all dimensions are promiscuously seen, with persons in all directions, moving in quick succession; and of these the military in the barracks form a splendid and conspicuous feature. Beyond the water lies Rochester, and its unequal wings, Stroud and Chatham, curving with the river, and extending nearly three miles; the castle, cathedral, churches, other public buildings, handsome houses, with the fertile country behind the three towns, finely varied with the richest cultivation; Upnor-castle, the church and vil-

lage of Frindsbury, the farm-houses, orchards, and woods, all gently rising from the towns, until they are lost in the distant horizon, forming a display that rivets to the spot the admiring spectator.

The view to the north is still more grand:—the river opening into an arm of the sea; Sandgate creek, where ships perform quarantine; and the coast of Essex; all are open to view. The vessels coming in and going out from Chatham, and the wood of stately masts at Sheerness and the Nore, with the sea closing that part of the magnificent scenery; the village of Brompton become almost a town; the white church of Hoo on the other side the river; the church of Gillingham, where once was an archiepiscopal palace, and now a neglected fortification; all unite their various beauties to diversify this enchanting spot.

Before quitting the three towns let it be remarked, that at Stroud are various wharfs, where the largest colliers come up and safely moor; that there and at Rochester are a company of oyster-dredgers, free by prescription, but under the government of the corporation of Rochester; and that Chatham has not only such who gain their living by sea employments and fishing, but those who serve in his majesty's navy and army, and of every different trade that is seen in the extensive docks, besides all those officers who preside over every distinct department in the yards and barracks; forming altogether with Rochester, a great body constantly and actively employed. Besides the extensive fortifications to protect Chatham, there are always lying in commission three third-rate men of war called guard-ships; two stationed at Chatham, and the other at Blackstakes, near Sheerness.

It is evident that Chatham was a Roman station, from the many urns, coins, and other remains of that people, particularly foundations of their buildings, tessellated pavements, and arms. The manor of Horsted in this parish has generally been supposed to have taken its name from Horfa, the brother of Hengist, having been buried here: this Saxon chieftain encountering in single combat Catigern, the brother of the British king Vortimer, each died by the hand of his opponent. Catigern's burial in Aylesford parish has already been mentioned.

James I. was at Chatham July 4, 1604, where he knighted many gentlemen; and on Sunday, August 10, 1606, that monarch, his queen, and Henry prince of Wales, conducted Christian IV. king of Denmark, accompanied by the counsellors, chief officers of their household and attendants, to Chatham, in the ship named Elizabeth-Jonas, which was magnificently adorned to receive the illustrious guest,

with cloth of gold, and in the half-deck a rich chair of state was placed. After dinner the two sovereigns went from that ship to the White Bear, upon a bridge about 240 yards long, made of fir masts railed in on both sides, which floated upon the water, and was of sufficient breadth for four men to walk with convenience abreast; in the middle of the bridge was a great hoy called the kitchen, where the food had been dressed for the whole court. After the monarchs and their suites had passed the windmill-hills, the gallies, ships, and castle discharged their ordnance, a tremendous peal from nearly 1200 guns, all fired together.

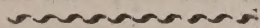
A circumstance disgraceful to Britain happened at Chatham. The Dutch in 1667, under their vice-admiral Van Ghent, sent by admiral de Ruyter with seventeen sail of the lightest vessels and fire-ships, broke the chain which the duke of Albemarle had hastily thrown over the river, and burnt the Matthias, Unity, and Charles V., three large Dutch prizes taken in the preceding war, with other vessels also placed there to protect the chain: he then with six men of war and five fire-ships proceeded to Upnor-castle, which made all the resistance possible. The brave Dutchman, though checked, and finding the whole alarmed country coming against him, yet seized the hull of the Royal Charles, and burnt, in his retreat, the Royal Oak, Loyal London, and Great James, with the loss of only 150 men and two of his ships, which running on shore he destroyed. This, the greatest disgrace England has received in any of her wars, was severely animadverted upon by the enemies of Charles II.'s government: the duke of Albemarle threw the blame upon Sir Phineas Pett, commissioner of Chatham yard, whom the house of commons impeached; but he so ably defended himself, that the charge fell to the ground. The king took every prudent precaution that no subsequent dishonour should be sustained, by suitably fortifying the banks of the Medway: their good effects have remained until the present time.

Chatham has given title to two illustrious families. John Campbell, the great duke of Argyle, was in 1705 created by queen Anne baron of Chatham and earl of Greenwich; the latter in 1719 was erected into a dukedom for him: his grace dying in 1743 without male issue, this barony became extinct.

Hester, wife of the right hon. William Pitt, in consideration of his great and important public services, was raised in 1761 to the rank of baroness Chatham, with remainder to their male issue; and July 30, 1766, his majesty called him to the house of peers, by the title of viscount Pitt of Burton Pynsent, in Somersetshire,
and

and earl of Chatham. His lordship dying in 1778 universally regretted, as a just, wise, and successful minister, was succeeded in his titles by his eldest son John, the present earl of Chatham, whose younger brother, the right hon. William Pitt, the present premier, raised Britain from despondency to envied greatness and prosperity, until the ruthless sons of France, by outraging human nature, obliged him to take up arms to stem the torrent of what they impiously call "holy insurrection." Since then this virtuous statesman has, by his wisdom, subdued an infamous faction in this, and an open rebellion in the sister kingdom, and made our fleets ride triumphant throughout the globe; so long as religion, law, the arts, civilization, and every thing that is valuable shall be prized, he will be esteemed as the benefactor of mankind, being, under his sovereign, the principal instrument in the hands of Providence to free a groaning world from the plunder of the atheistical regicidal governors of France, the most infamous conspirators against the rights of men that blacken the page of history.

On the south side of Chatham-hill and near, are found these different species of the satyrion or orchis plant—the butterfly, gnat, humble bee, bee, fly, bird's, and spotted bird's orchis. The sea lavender is seen below the old dock, and the small candy madder in profusion on the above hill.



S H E E R N E S S.

AS Sheernefs is within sight of, and forms, as it were, a supplement to Chatham, the reader will be gratified with knowing something of this port. Sheernefs, seated on a point of Shepey island, where the West Swale or Medway falls into the Thames, is of modern date, owing its present state to Charles II.'s improvements. There is little notice taken of it previous to the depredations committed upon our shipping by the Dutch admiral de Ruyter; yet then it is evident there was a dock and naval station, for that brave enemy found here fortifications and store-houses; the former he blew up, and the latter burnt, though defended by the gallant Sir Edward Spragge. After this disastrous event, Sheernefs was better defended; a line of heavy cannon now commands the mouth of the river, bidding defiance to all our foreign enemies. The town has increased to several streets, but none reside in them except such who have particular business in the place: houses are so scarce,

that

that many of the hulls of old vessels are converted into dwellings ; and a single ship contains a great number of inhabitants, making a very singular appearance.

Sheerness superseded Queenborough, also in the isle of Shepey, but more south, built by Edward III. to secure the Medway, and its situation is far better adapted for the purpose : the yard for building vessels, with a dock intended chiefly for repairing ships in case of sudden accidents, and for building others of smaller dimension than those at Chatham, make this an appendage to that place. The greatest inconvenience it sustained was a want of fresh water : Sheerness was supplied with this absolutely necessary article from Chatham. To rectify this great inconvenience, the marquis of Townshend, master-general of the ordnance, as well as the whole board, and general Craig, governor of the garrison, encouraged Sir Thomas-Hyde Page, as able as an engineer, as gallant as an officer, to undertake sinking a well in Fort Townshend. The experiments to try the different strata, and preparing materials, commenced April 17, 1781 : the well was begun June 4 following ; and what does the greatest credit to Sir Thomas, it was finished July 4, 1784, though sunk 330 feet deep. The water rushed in with such velocity, that it was with difficulty the workmen escaped the torrent, which after its blowing up rose forty feet from the bottom of the well, mixed with quicksand. In six hours it rose 189 feet, and in a few days within eight feet of the top, and has never been lowered more than 200 feet, though constantly drawn out. The quality is remarkably good, being fine, soft, and, what is singular, a degree warmer than common well water ; a circumstance very beneficial, as the soldiers in garrison at Dover castle often suffer from the very cold water drawn from that well. It is very extraordinary that in sinking the well a piece of a tree was found at the depth of 300 feet. As this great acquisition to Sheerness was obtained under the patronage of his majesty, it has judiciously been called King's well. The sovereign, when at Sheerness, viewing the undertaking, ordered Sir Thomas to continue the work to the utmost extent, as far as there remained a possibility of success. Sir Thomas-Hyde Page thinks it still capable of farther improvements, and no one can be so good a judge.

The number of ships at this station is always very great. Here is an office for the ordnance under the inspection of the same commissioner as Chatham, where there is an attendance often for many days together, when the fleet rendezvous at the Nore, to observe that each ship has its complement of military stores, and to
check

check the officers of the ships from taking more than what they ought. The principal servants of government are the clerk of the cheque, store-keeper, master shipwright, clerk of survey, master attendant, master shipwright's assistant, master calker, boatswain, surgeon, and porter.

HUNDRED OF TOLTRINGTROW.

THE hundred of Toltringtrow, in the lath of Aylesford, is written in Domesday-book Tollentru; other ancient deeds spell it Toltetern and Tollentr: the archbishops of Canterbury were lords of it in the reign of Edward I., answering for four knight's fees and an half, and containing the parishes of Luddefdon, Meopham, Nutsted, Ifield, Milton, Gravesend, and Northfleet.

L U D D E S D O N.

THE parish of Luddefdon, on the north of Birling, and to the west of Halting, generally called Luddefdown, in Domesday-book is written Ledesdune; in the Textus Roffensis, Hludesdune; from leod, populous, dune, a peopled hill. The situation, as may be supposed, is elevated, extending from north to south only two miles, and not one from east to west: though it has two villages, each of the same name, yet from the poverty of the stony soil, and detached situation, it is little known, and less frequented.

At the Conquest Ralph Fitz-Turolde held this manor of the bishop of Bayeux earl of Kent: under the Confessor it had been part of the great possessions of earl Leuvin. It is remarkable that so very inconsiderable a spot should have been constantly owned by a succession of great families: from the Giffards it went to the Montchenies, whose heiress Dionisia took it to the Veres earls of Oxford, and by other females to the Valences and Hastings, earls of Hastings, and lord Grey of Ruthin; who becoming a prisoner to Owen Glendower, the Welch rebel chieftain, this manor, to raise money towards his ransom, was sold to that great warrior Thomas Montacute earl of Salisbury, who left it his natural son, buried in this church: he conveyed it to the great Nevil family, earls of Westmorland, since barons of Abergavenny, one of whom some years ago disposed of it to the Brasiers. The manor is now possessed by Mr. John Walter, who holds a court baron as a member

member of Swanscombe, parcel of the ancient barony of Montchenſie; it pays an annual rent inſtead of guard duty to Rocheſter caſtle.

Great or South Buckland, a manor held by William de Lodeſden in Edward I.'s reign, as three parts of a knight's fee, of the heirs of Warine de Montchenſie: he gave the corn tithe of it to the nunnery of Malling, at the time his daughter Joice became a nun there, and an acre of land to build a barn upon; a gift ſo conſiderable, that it was confirmed by Richard Wendover and Hamo Noble biſhops of Rocheſter, and Simon, Theobald, and Hubert, archbiſhops of Canterbury. A family afterwards poſſeſſed this manor, who adopted the ſurname of Buckland: their heiress took it to the Polleys or Polhills; who conveyed their intereſt to the family of the preſent poſſeſſor, Thomas Whitaker, of Trotteſcliffe, Eſq., who holds a court baron for the manor. The remains of the chapel of Dowdes ſtand about a quarter of a mile from the manor-houſe.

This pariſh, in the dioceſe and deanry of Rocheſter, is a rectory in the gift of Edward Barrett, Eſq., and valued in the king's books at 11*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.* The church, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, is ſmall: the Rev. William Thomſon, S. T. P., is rector. Mr. Stephen Thornton, who held this living from 1681 to his death in 1744, will long be remembered with grateful reſpect by the numerous families, whoſe relations received moſt excellent educations under his tuition.

M E O P H A M.

TO the weſt of Luddeſdon is Meopham, anciently Meapaham, now pronounced Mepham; twenty-four miles from London, and nine from Dartford, extending five miles from north to ſouth, and almoſt three from eaſt to weſt; containing 5700 acres of land, let from 5*s.* to 30*s.* per acre, forty-eight houſes, 117 families, and 612 ſouls; moſtly conſiſting of perſons engaged in agriculture or weaving, and all profeſſing the eſtabliſhed religion. This diſtrict is diverſified with hills and vallies; the former chalky and ſterile, the latter plow land, varied with coppices of beech, birch, and ſtunted oak: to the north it has the ſmall hamlets of Mellaker, Hook-green, and Camer; to the ſouth Pitfield-green, Prieſt-wood, and Culverſtone-green,; and in the ſouth-eaſt Harefield.

The extenſive eſtates included in the manor were in various hands; for duke Eadulf gave that part which he had received from Athelſtan, by leave of that ſovereign, in

940, to the priory of Christ-church, in Canterbury: Edgiva, the widowed mother of his successors Edmund and Edred, in 961 granted other lands. Britrick and his wife Elfwithe united in devising the remainder to the same monastery; the latter lady, to show her zeal, gave thirty marks of gold to the archbishop, and thirty marks, a necklace value twenty, and two silver cups, to the convent. Edward II. granted free warren of all the demesne, and Henry VI. a weekly Saturday's market, and an yearly fair on the feast of St. Peter and St. Paul. At the dissolution Henry VIII. gave it to the dean and chapter of Canterbury. Mr. John Market is the lessee, and resides in the court-lodge, which his father rebuilt. The manor and royalties are retained by the dean and chapter, who hold courts leet and baron.

Dodmore, a manor long possessed by the knightly family of Huntingfield, after a great variety of proprietors came to Mr. George Lattenden, of Frindsbury, by whom it was devised to the present owner, Mr. Thomas Elliot, who holds a court baron.

Dean-court is an estate owned by the family of Twitham. Adam de Twitham was amongst the Kentish gentlemen who attended Richard I. at the siege of Acon, in Palestine: an heiress of one of them, in Richard II.'s reign, took it to the Septvans, who from their seat in Ash were called at Chequer, and afterwards for a gallant service of one of them at Harfleet, in Normandy, under Henry V., took the surname of that place; the family of Septivan alias Harfleet, parted with it in Charles I.'s reign: it is now owned by Richard Gee, Esq., who has taken the name of Carew.

George Smith, Esq., resides in a handsome seat of his at Camer.

Meopham, a vicarage, in the diocese of Rochester and deanry of Shoreham, is a peculiar of Canterbury, and in the gift of that see: it is valued in the king's books at 16*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* The large, handsome church, standing in the centre of the parish, is dedicated to St. John the Baptist. The vicar receives all the tithes, corn excepted, 30*l.* a year from the lessee of the parsonage, and an annual pension of 5*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* from the dean and chapter. The Rev. John Smedley is vicar.

Simon Meopham, who became archbishop of Canterbury in 1327, was a native of this place. This parish contributed towards the repair of the ninth pier of Rochester bridge.

N U T S T E D.

TO the north of Meopham is Nutsted, usually called Nursted, written in Domesday-book Notestede, in the Textus Roffensis, Hnutstede. This parish, not a mile each way, contains only five dwellings, lies high, and has arable, orchard, hop, and wood land.

The manor prior to the Conquest was held of Edward the Confessor, by Ulstan; after by Wardard, of bishop Odo. In king John's reign the de Nutsteds possessed it as one knight's fee of the barony of Arsic, and superior to that of the castle of Dover, by the service of keeping ward. The de Gravesends held it for some ages; two of them were Richard and Stephen de Gravesend, uncle and nephew, successively bishops of London. In this century it was divided into four parts by coheiresses; now the whole, by purchase, centres in Mr. Henry Edmeads, who resides here.

Nutsted, a rectory within the diocese and deanry of Rochester, is a discharged living of the clear yearly certified value of 30*l.*, exclusive of lands purchased by queen Anne's bounty, and in the gift of the Boteler family. The advowson is appendant upon the manor. The Rev. William Crakelt is the present incumbent.

Even this very small parish had its chapel, the ruins of which adjoin the court-lodge.



I F I E L D.

TO the north of Nutsted is Ifield, written in the Textus Roffensis, Iuelda, in records, Yelesfelde; a parish still more inconsiderable than the last described, not containing 300 acres of land, and having only ten dwellings. The Roman road is visible at Shinglewell, anciently Shanecemcewell-street, leading from Springhead, in Southfleet, to Cobham-park and Rochester: bye roads go from hence to that city, and also to Gravesend, from which it is distant only between two and three miles. The land is chalky and barren, a fine sandy, hazel mould, or clay upon the chalk: the air is good.

The manor called Hever-court, from the family who owned and resided here, obtained from Edward III. a market to be held at Shinglewell, and two yearly fairs, one at Michaelmas for five, and the other on St. Laurence's feast for three days. The ancestors of John Toke, Esq., the present owner, obtained this manor
and

and estate by descent and purchase. Mr. Benjamin Hubble resides here, letting his own mansion to the Rev. John Tucker, rector of Gravesend, who makes it a seminary for young gentlemen.

This rectory, in the diocese of Rochester and deanry of Shoreham, is a peculiar of Canterbury, of the certified yearly value of 26*l.* 10*s.*, and was augmented with Nutsted; it has the same patron and incumbent.

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M I L T O N.

FARTHER north is Milton, on the Kentish shore of the Thames, the Meletune or Middletown of Domesday-book, from lying between Gravesend and Chalk: to distinguish it from the two other places of the name in this county, it is usually written Milton near Gravesend. The dimensions of this parish are small, extending only a mile and half from north to south, and a third less from the other points, containing about 1100 acres of land, of which fifty are marsh. In the account of Gravesend other particulars will be given of this place, as incorporated with it; observing, however, that Milton has a fair commencing on the conversion of St. Paul, which continues a week.

The manor, once Odo's bishop of Bayeux, and earl of Kent, at his disgrace went into other hands, and generally followed the descent of that of Luddesdon, until sold towards raising money for the liberation of Reginald lord Grey of Ruthin, after which it seldom has remained long in the same family. The late Michael Bedell, Esq., who died in 1795, left this manor to his executor; but Mr. Weston resides in the court-lodge, rebuilt some years ago by Mr. Peter Moulson, of London, a former owner, who also greatly improved the ground.

Paddock or Parrocks, is another manor, part of the possessions of the de Gravesends, of whom Edward III. purchased it, to give to the monastery of St. Mary Graces, near the Tower: at the Reformation Henry VIII. granted it out for lives, and James I. passed away the fee to Mr. William Salter. For a century the estate has been possessed by the Coofens, the last of whom died in 1779, leaving an only child, a daughter; and since 1695 the manor, separated from the estate, has been vested in the corporation of Gravesend by the gift of George Etkins, Esq., a jurat. The town-hall, market-yard, free-school, wharf or quay, ferry to Tilbury, with thirty-three houses chiefly in East-street, and on the east side of high-street, all in



Gravefend, belong to this manor, the court baron of which is held in the town-hall of that place.

This parish, in the diocese and deanry of Rochester, has a venerable church, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, repaired and beautified in 1792, at the expense of 650*l*. The crests of our kings from Edward III. to James I. are painted upon the walls. This rectory was given to its own chapel and chantry, or college for priests, dedicated to the blessed Virgin, situate on the west side of the parish, founded and endowed by Aymer de Valence earl of Pembroke, in the reign of Edward I., and confirmed by Hamo Noble called de Hythe, valued at the dissolution at 6*l*. 8*s*. Henry VIII. gave it to Sir Thomas Wyat. The rectory is now valued at 16*l*. 5*s*. 10*d*.: the present incumbent is the Rev. William Crawford, also rector of Trottescliffe, and chaplain to the bishop of Rochester.

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#### G R A V E S E N D.

MORE to the west, bounded also by the Thames, is Gravefend, the Graveham of Domesday-book, and Gravefænde of the Textus Roffensis, derived from the Saxon gerefa, and German greve, ruler or portreeve, and ham, a place. The parish is near a mile to the north of the London road, from which the town, on the banks of the river, is twenty-two miles, and eight from Rochester.

The town of Gravefend, lying upon a declivity, is small, but populous, containing about 700 houses, crowded together; which is the more extraordinary, as the conflagration happening between eleven and twelve o'clock at night, on August 24, 1727, destroyed the church and 110 houses, and gave the inhabitants an opportunity to rebuild the whole in a far more commodious manner: the wonder is, how the inhabitants dare live in houses built of wood, as most of them are, when so much mischief has arisen by fires; for in May 1731, seven houses were burnt; and November 9, 1748, several others, by a warehouse in which pitch, tar, rosin, &c. were lodged, taking fire; perhaps the whole place would have been consumed, had not one of the houses accidentally blown up, having a great quantity of gunpowder in it. The devastation in 1727 nearly ruined the unhappy sufferers; but the mayor and jurats, wisely making immediate application to the surrounding corporations, clergy, and others, relief was given sufficient to alleviate, though not wholly to compensate their misfortunes.

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The narrow streets, until the thirteenth year of his present majesty's reign, were so entirely filthy, that the place was never frequented by any but persons obliged by business; now it is paved and lighted much in the same manner as the other corporate towns in Kent: from the great increase of trade, no doubt other great improvements will be made. West-street, and the west side of High-street, are in Gravesend parish; the remainder is chiefly in that of Milton. The parishes of Gravesend and Milton, incorporated by Henry IV., were confirmed in their privileges by queen Elizabeth, who changed the name of their chief magistrate from portreeve to mayor, under whom are twelve jurats and twenty-four common-councilmen, a recorder, high steward, chamberlain, town clerk, and serjeant at mace. The mayor and deputy mayor are chosen from the jurats on the Monday after St. Michael; the mayor, and generally the eldest jurat, act as a justice of peace within the limits of the corporation. This body politic has little authority as lord of the manor of Milton. The lord of the manor of Gravesend formerly held courts of the water to regulate the carriage between Gravesend and London; he was obliged, with the people of Milton, to repair the causeway and bridge: these powers and obligations are now neither exercised nor demanded. The city of London regulates the passage from hence, though their port comes only to the extremity of the town. The marsh land extending from Gravesend bridge to the mouth of the Medway, and to Higham marshes, is within the jurisdiction of the commission of sewers, who meet at Rochester when business requires. The market days are Wednesday and Saturday. Edward III. gave them two annual fairs, which are held on April 23 and October 24, each continuing a week; horses, black cattle, clothes, toys, and other articles, are brought to them: the profits arising from these fairs belong to the lord of the manor.

The most conspicuous building in the place is the town-hall, supported upon pillars. In the front is—"This building was erected in the year 1764. John Delap, Esq., mayor; C. Sloane, archit." The school adjoining was founded and endowed by Mr. David Vachall, who died in 1703: twenty boys, half from Gravesend and half from Milton, are clothed and instructed. The estate given for this and other charitable purposes, amounts to 67*l.* 8*s.* and Mr. James Fry in 1710 left an annual rent charge of 14*l.* 10*s.* for the education of ten other boys; four to be taken from Gravesend, four from Milton, and two from Cliff.

The poor's-house, a plain brick edifice, is very properly at some distance from  
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the town. Over the entrance is, “ This building was erected in the year 1797 :  
 “ George Thompson, Samuel Mann, churchwardens ; William Smith, Alexander  
 “ Suttie, overseers. *Beatus qui egentium habet rationem.*”

Gravesend has a very large distillery, lately taken by Mr. Brenchley, and a considerable brewery. Machines, and every other accommodation for sea-bathing, have lately been established near the town. In the parishes of Gravesend and Milton there are as much as seventy acres of land used by gardeners, who chiefly raise asparagus, which is in higher estimation than even that of Battersea: they raise after-crops upon the beds, generally peas. The quantity of vegetables raised is of the utmost use to the shipping outward bound, and to the neighbouring country. It is remarkable that this place was as much deficient in vegetables as is it now abundant: some time back the people did not raise sufficient for their own use; now London, the shipping, and neighbourhood, have great supplies of these necessary articles from hence.

This place has long been of consequence from its situation. Richard II. in 1377, commanded beacons to be erected here, and at Farndon, in Essex, the opposite shore. These precautions were rendered useless by the supineness of the English, and the temerity of the French, who soon after having taken Winchelsea, and burnt Appledore, Rye, Hastings, and Portsmouth, came hither, September 8, 1384, with four galleys, and finding it equally neglected, set fire to and burnt a great part of the town, transporting to France the unfortunate inhabitants, and the plunder they had obtained, and, what is almost incredible, without being opposed; a circumstance disgraceful to the nation.

Henry VIII. built two bulwarks or platforms, mounting upon them cannon, as a defence to the Thames; one was at Gravesend, the other lower on the river, near Milton: and in 1782 an act of parliament was procured for the better securing the Thames at this town, and Tilbury. The governor of Gravesend is major-general Thomas Musgrave; the appointment is 300*l.* per annum: the lieutenant-governor is the hon. James de Courcy, who has 182*l.* 10*s.*

To compensate and encourage the unhappy townsmen of Gravesend and Milton for their misfortune by the French, Richard II. gave to the convent of St. Mary Graces, in which the manor was vested, the exclusive privilege of conveying all passengers going from those places to London by water, provided that they procured a sufficient number of boats, and charged only 2*d.* for each person, and any  
 bundle



bundle such passenger had ; nor more than 4s. for the use of the whole boat. The charter was frequently confirmed by succeeding monarchs. It is now called the long ferry ; no more is paid for each passenger than 9d., nor 10s. 6d. for the whole vessel : these are called the tilt-boats, and are large and convenient for the purpose ; they appear for ages to have been capable of carrying many passengers. October 25, 1553, a tilt-boat was overfet by a “ catch ” running against it, and fourteen persons drowned ; the remaining sixteen saved themselves by swimming. March 5, 1576, in the night, “ through a great flaw of wind,” in the north-west, a tilt-boat, with about thirty-one persons of both sexes, coming from Gravesend, were all, except a boy, drowned. May 4, 1591, another tilt-boat with forty persons, being overrun by a hoy, the greater part of the passengers were drowned near Greenwich, whilst the court were there, which greatly frightened her majesty queen Elizabeth, who we must suppose saw the catastrophe. December 23, 1599, the violent west by south wind, which did so much mischief on land, occasioned a tilt-boat coming from London to Gravesend to be lost near Woolwich, and only eleven out of thirty persons were saved.

There is a bell rung for a quarter of an hour previous to these boats leaving ; and though they go every flood to London, and return every ebb by a like signal, it is incredible the number of passengers that are each time conveyed by these vessels to and from that great mart of commerce.

As the port of London terminates at Gravesend bridge, there is a custom-house established, where two principal searchers attend, who visit all outward-bound ships, which are obliged to anchor in the road before the town, but those failing to London are suffered to pass without any examination, unless they are in want of tide-waiters. Most of the former here complete their cargoes, and take in provisions : it is also the rendezvous of the Dutch turbot-vessels, by which London is supplied with that commodity.

The concourse and bustle arising from this, with the passengers, horses, cattle, and carriages to and from the Essex side in ferries, the number of stage-coaches, travellers of all sorts, even the most indigent, to the number of 8 or 900, who gain here, for a trifling sum, a passage to London, make this place all activity ; equally profitable to the tradesmen and the inn-keepers. Gravesend was formerly honoured by the presence of all the great passing to or coming from the continent, the road to Dover then going through it. The custom of having regular ambassa-



dors resident in the courts of potentates in friendship with them, becoming established in the reign of Elizabeth, it was necessary to fix precise regulations, to prevent giving any umbrage to the diplomatic corps: for this reason her majesty commanded that all illustrious personages and ambassadors coming by water, should be received at this place by the lord mayor of London, aldermen, and companies in their formalities in their barges: the ambassadors and their suite being conveyed in the royal ones, were landed at the Tower wharf, where a deputation of noblemen awaited their arrival, and the carriages of the sovereign and others attended to convey them to their lodgings. Before this time, however, princes or their representatives were honourably received at Gravesend. December 27, 1555, in the reign of queen Mary, Emanuel Philibert duke of Savoy, with other great foreigners in his train, were received here by the lord privy seal and others, who conducted them by water under London bridge to Westminster: and on January 9 following, the prince of Orange was conveyed from this place in a vessel, and landed at the duke of Suffolk's town residence, which was built upon the bank of the Thames.

As so many illustrious strangers were constantly coming to Gravesend, it is extraordinary that our sovereigns did not build a suitable edifice to receive them. When we recollect that queen Elizabeth received an embassy from France consisting of 300 persons, all of whom passed through this place, we wonder how they could be accommodated, especially when joined by those deputed to conduct them to London, which, exclusive of the corporation of the city, often consisted of many noblemen, courtiers, master of the ceremonies, and attendants.

To attempt giving a detail of the different ambassadors who stopped at Gravesend would be tedious: Sir John Finett's *Philoxensis* mentions many in the reigns of James I. and Charles I.; and by Whitlock it is obvious that during the Usurpation the same practice continued. The ambassadors having encroached upon queen Elizabeth's regulations, by obtaining attendance beyond Gravesend, Charles I. ordered that no ambassador should be met beyond this town: soon after, that no nobleman should attend an embassy more distant than Greenwich, and some time before the civil war commenced, that ambassadors should defray every expense of conveyance, board, and lodging. King Charles was frugal from inclination and necessity.

On July 17, 1606, Christian IV. king of Denmark, with eight ships, containing six of his great officers of state, and a most splendid retinue, came to Gravesend on  
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their way to London to visit our sovereign James I., whose consort was this monarch's brother: the news reaching London, the duke of Lenox and other noblemen came to pay their respects to his majesty, but not arriving till eleven at night, and finding they could not be introduced, returned to town. The next morning king James, Henry prince of Wales, the duke of Lenox, the lord admiral, lord chamberlain; the earls of Rutland, Pembroke, and Montgomery; lords Mounteagle, Compton, and many other earls and barons, went by water from Greenwich to Gravesend. The king of Denmark, when they came near, intended to leave his ship to conduct his brother-in-law and nephew to it; but finding that the stairs were too narrow for more than one to ascend or descend, he remained on board, where he received the illustrious company with the greatest courtesy, taking each nobleman by the hand, kissing his nephew the prince of Wales, and embracing our sovereign, whom he led to his cabin, beautifully adorned, giving his Britannic majesty the upper hand. The English nobility were honourably feasted in another part of the ship. After dinner the Danish and British navies announced the sovereigns' taking their barges by a discharge, every vessel they met doing the same, until they came to Greenwich, where the privy council waited to receive the monarchs.

Gravesend exhibited a more splendid sight at Christian's return. James having given a naval entertainment at Chatham to that king, they, queen Anne, prince Henry, and many of the nobility, came the following day, Monday, August 11, to this place, and went on board the largest ship of Denmark, where it rode at anchor. This vessel "was a gallant ship of very high and narrow building;" the beak-head, stern, and three galleries, were finely gilt; the waist and half-deck were adorned with arras and other rich ornaments. The great personages and their suites went on board at ten o'clock in the forenoon, and were very royally feasted; the drums and trumpets proclaiming the mutual pledges of affectionate regard, were answered by the cannon of the admiral's ship, seconded by the block-houses, followed by the vice-admiral's, and other Danish ships. James rose at four o'clock to take leave; Christian pressed his majesty to remain until the evening, as he had fireworks to amuse him; but the British monarch excusing his departure, the pageant was immediately played off, though the sun would much injure the effect. The device was the seven deadly sins, chained to four circular pillars, bound with a chain, which a couchant lion over them held, threatening,



by the fire vomited from his mouth, instant destruction; at length the vengeance commenced, and in a quarter of an hour the fiends were consumed amidst a constant noise, occasioned by exploding gunpowder. The lion couchant being king James's device, the pageantry was meant as a compliment to his supposed virtue, in having overcome all the seven deadly sins. On Wednesday the king of Denmark went a little lower down the river, and on Thursday setting sail, he arrived in eight days in his own dominions, the winds favouring him the whole time.

Frederic elector Palatine, coming to espouse the princess Elizabeth, daughter of James I., landed at Gravesend on the evening of Friday, October 16, 1612: his highness was welcomed by lord Hay, attended by Sir Lewis Lewkner, master of the ceremonies; and on Sunday again by the duke of Lenox, attended by many noblemen, knights, and gentlemen, belonging to the court: soon after he left this place, and was conducted with the utmost splendour and festivity by water to the palace of Whitehall.

The Danish monarch came again to England to visit the British court: he landed at Yarmouth, came to London July 22, bringing with him only forty noblemen and attendants, and after spending his time in every kind of pleasure, accompanied by king James and prince Charles, he took barge early in the morning of August 1; after viewing Woolwich dock, he went to Gravesend: the royal brothers with the prince dined at an inn, whose sign was the Ship. After dinner they went aboard the Danish king's ship, where they stayed two hours. James taking leave, went into his own barge, and returning to Blackwall, where his suite waited to receive him, he went to Theobalds, and thence begun his progress, leaving the prince of Wales with his majesty of Denmark, who the next day conducted him to Rochester to view the new stately ship the Prince: coming again to Gravesend, he dined there; after which the prince accompanied his uncle to his ship, and there taking his leave, returned to London that night. The next day Christian, with his three fine ships, set sail, and safely regained his native shore. There was some similitude of character between the Danish and British monarchs, in a love of splendour and lavish profusion: James was sober, Christian indulged in wine to the greatest excess. If the English did not admire Christian as an accomplished man, they loved him as a condescending and liberal monarch.

We have seen that Charles I. when prince of Wales was at Gravesend; soon after his accession he came by water in his way to Canterbury to meet his bride

Henrietta,



Henrietta, a daughter of France; and May 23, 1625, the marriage was consummated in that city. The next day they removed to Cobham, from thence to Gravesend, with a most numerous train of ladies, noblemen, knights, and gentlemen, both French and English. They were welcomed by the ordnance, and the guns in the different ships stationed there. This was as splendid an assemblage as most that our annals record; but Sir John Finett says, it was as ill conducted, owing to the want of order and regularity, which should, on such occasions, be particularly observed. Amongst the illustrious strangers, the most conspicuous were, the French ambassador, the duke de Chevereux and his dutchess. Here the royal pair took shipping, and landed at the privy stairs, Whitehall.

There is no better security for the prosperity of towns than keeping good roads: the profit arising from these illustrious strangers, and indeed of all kinds of passengers by land, must have been very great, when this was the direct road from London to Dover: the chalk pits, which will be noticed when we speak of Northfleet, at length rendered the great road so dangerous, that, after repeatedly changing it farther from Gravesend, it is now half a mile to the east of the town, from whence a lane leads to it by queen Mary's green. This town gave name to a family famed for the prelates it produced: Richard de Gravesend bishop of Lincoln in 1258; Richard de Gravesend bishop of London, 1282; and Stephen de Gravesend, his nephew and successor in that see. They and their ancestors owned estates in the parish.

Odo, the disturber of England's peace, owned the manor of Gravesend; but was deprived of it in 1083; when, vesting in the crown, it was granted as part of a knight's fee to the Cramaville family, held by the service of contributing to defend Dover castle, and thither thrice in each year the tenants of this town repaired to perform the duty of warding. Reverting again to the crown, Edward III. granted the place to the Uffords, of whom that sovereign afterwards purchasing, gave, and Richard II. confirmed it, to the Cistercian abbey of St. Mary Graces, near the Tower. After the dissolution it was leased, until queen Elizabeth granted the fee to Robert earl of Leicester, who disposed of it to Sir Thomas Gawdie and James Morice: Sir Thomas having purchased the share of Morice, conveyed the whole to William lord Cobham: at the attainure of lord Cobham James I. granted it to the duke of Richmond and Lenox. At the extinction of those titles in the Stuart family, the manor came by purchase to Sir Joseph Williamson, who married the sister of the last duke; at Sir Joseph's death it came to the ennobled family of



Bligh, in the same manner as Cobham-hall; and the earl of Darnley is the present lord of the manor, and the hereditary high steward of the town and corporation of Gravesend.

This parish is in the diocese and deanry of Rochester; the most ancient church was burnt down in 1509: another, dedicated to St. Mary, was consecrated April 3, 1510: this mean structure was destroyed in the fire of 1727. An act passed in 1731 for rebuilding it, and having been classed as one of the fifty new ones, 5000*l.* was given towards it. Sir Roger Meredith, M. P., laid the first stone June 3, and in compliment to the king's name it was dedicated to St. George. It is a neat brick edifice, with stone quoins and cornices, having a musical peal of eight bells, purchased by subscription. The organ was erected in 1764 at the expense of 100*l.*, bequeathed for that purpose by Mr. John Ison. The parish is a rectory, valued in the king's books at 15*l.* The patronage was appendant upon the manor until lost by forfeiture to James I.; since, it has remained in the crown. The present incumbent is the Rev. John Tucker, A. M., also rector of Luddenham.

There was a chapel, dedicated to St. George, consecrated April 2, 1510, which never had the privilege of performing the rites of baptism and sepulture: the remains of this desecrated building, lately modernized, have long been used for purposes very different from the original intention, much to the inconvenience of the people in that part of the parish in which it stands.

Gravesend has now a ship-yard; Mr. Cleverly, the owner, has frequently built large men of war in it; a circumstance of great advantage to the town, and from the increase of our fleets likely to become more so.

There are dug innumerable fossils from the chalk quarries, principally of the *echinus* species, also *glossa petra*, of the finest polish, and sharp as thorns; in the strata of flints, knapped for the use of guns, are sometimes cockleshells of so large a size as to be highly prized by naturalists.

These rare plants are found near Gravesend—the round salt marsh cyperus, sea lavender, both below the town; great and small sea starwort, near the block-house; the male, female, small-ground, and ivy-ground pine milkwort; bastard hemp of various kinds, both in and round the town; traveller's joy in the hedges, and marsh asparagus on the banks of the Thames.

Three large fishes called whirlepools, taken here October 7, 1552, were drawn to Westminster bridge; and a whale was caught a little below the town August 30, 1718, which was forty feet in length.



This town, disagreeable as it is, has the pleafantest walks around it that can be imagined : the cultivation of the garden ground may be well placed in oppofition to the romantic and terrific chafms of the chalk quarries : afcending towards the windmill hills, as high as the public houfe, towards the north is one of the fineft views that imagination can paint ; it feems enchantment—towards the weft the auguft Thames, widely expanding itfelf, exhibits to the wondering beholder a fine lake as it were, the town cutting off every communication, hiding the lower part of the river from view ; the fhips failing in becoming pride towards the world's grand magazine of commerce ; floops, hoys, tilt-boats, veffels of all fizes, containing perfons and properties of all descriptions, make it a bufy, changing, never-ending variety : on the oppofite fhire the magnificent fort of Tilbury, a large diftinct object ftanding upon the banks of the river, with the land gently rifing, spotted with its villages, and whitened by fpires, the whole terminating in hills, clothed with woods. Leaving this bewitching view, and looking towards the eaft, the fight is, if poffible, more gratified : a prodigious eftuary, rather than a river, pre-fents itfelf, extending beyond the naked eye, with fhips, fome juft turning a point of land, others lofing themfelves in the diftant profpect ; the Kentifh landscape varying from the rich cultivated gardens to the paffurage and wood, all tend to diversify the beautiful whole ; nothing heightening the fcenery more than the broken clefted chalk hills, feemingly fet detached, and rudely formed, ftretching themfelves into the river. Few fports in the ifland, or in Europe, can vie with this.

A tunnel is projected from this place to Tilbury-fort, to pafs under the Thames, forming a land junction of Kent to Effex : the idea would have appeared ridiculous a century ago. The inland navigations of thefe kingdoms evince that not only hills may be excavated or perforated, but that rivers may be paffed under their beds. The fouterain intended between the North and South Shields, near the mouth of the Tyne, probably gave rife to this fcheme of Mr. Dodd's. The expenfe eftimated is fo inconfiderable, that the whole would be faved to government in three years, in barges and other navigable charges. The chalk, extending a confiderable way from the Kent fide, makes the practicability the greater. The tunnel is intended to be thirty feet below the bed of the river, arched with brick, or, what is more durable, ftone mafonry, fufficiently capacious to admit every kind of carriage, and to be lighted with reflecting lamps. What a novel fight will it be, to fee a ftage coach merge under the Thames in Kent, and emerge in Effex !



## N O R T H F L E E T.

TO the west of Gravesend, also upon the banks of the Thames, is Northfleet; written Norfluet in Domesday-book, and Northfleotu in the *Textus Roffensis*, from a point of the compass, and fleet or arm of the river. The parish contains 3000 acres, 100 of which are wood: the unhealthiness of the neighbouring marshes is somewhat qualified by the great quantity of lime-kilns; yet still it is far from salubrious. The soil at a distance from the Thames is a stiff loam, intermixed with gravel, and brings good crops: it is diversified with gently rising hills, and small vallies. The north-west is so low that the high tides overflow it, and would extend even beyond the London road, if not prevented by the raised causeway, and the bridge, where the flood-gates make a barrier against the tides, which otherwise would deluge the marsh lands; the flood-gates serving also to let off the fresh water. This bridge, built at an early period, was taken down and rebuilt in 1634, which being found inconvenient, another has lately been erected in a strait line with the road.

Mr. Pitcher has a ship-yard here; behind it is a spacious dock, capable of containing six or seven large ships, cut out of the solid chalk: the first vessel ever built at Northfleet was the Royal Charlotte East Indiaman, launched November 2, 1789.

Besides Northfleet, a village built round a green, it has the hamlets of Northfleet, Hythe, Perry-street, Wombwell-hall, the estate of Windfield-bank, near the parish of Southfleet, extending to the south-east, between those of Ifield and Nutfield; the small hamlets of Northfleet-green, Nash-street, and part of Shinglewell-green.

Northfleet had once its Tuesday's market, from Easter to Whitsuntide, and three fairs, on St. Botolph's, March 24; Easter-Tuesday; and Whit-Tuesday.

If tradition may be depended upon, the valley through which the fleet or stream runs, once called Ebbsfleet, was formerly a large bay, bounded by hills. It is also believed that the Danish navy rode here during the winter; a circumstance no way improbable, as at present the water by the causeway is prevented from overflowing this part of the river's bank, which might afford depth sufficient for the mooring of the small ships of those piratical people.

The manor of Northfleet continued, from the Anglo-Saxon times to Henry VIII.'s reign as part of the revenues of the see of Canterbury; the succeeding sovereigns gave leases of it. Charles II. disposed of the quit-rents, valued at 50*l.* per annum, to the dean and chapter of Rochester; and in 1758 the manor was granted to William earl



earl of Beſborough, at a fee-farm rent of 6*s.* 8*d.*: his lordſhip conveyed it and Ingreſs, in Swanſcombe, to John Calcraft, Eſq., at whoſe death, in 1772, the manor came, by his will, with his other Kentiſh eſtates, to the preſent proprietor, John Calcraft, Eſq. Some of the eſtates in this manor are copyhold.

Ifield-court, a manor giving name to a family, came to the Gerrards, the laſt of whom dying without male iſſue, his four daughters and coheirs joined in conveying it to the father of Mr. John Tilden, the preſent poſſeſſor, who makes it his reſidence.

Wombwell-hall, an ancient ſeat, uſually called Wimple-hall, was the reſidence of the Wombwells from a very early period. Until the reign of Charles I. the eſtate by purchaſe came to the Fortryes; thence, by deſcent, to Thomas Chiffinch, Eſq., and is now the property of Francis Wadman, Eſq., who was gentleman-uſher to the late princeſs Amelia, from his marriage with Miſs Mary Comyns, the niece and heir at law of the laſt owner. This manſion is rather more than a mile ſouth-eaſt of the church.

The Hive or Hythe was the ſeat of the Chiffinches for near a century, a family who were confidential and faithful ſervants of the crown in the worſt of times. At the return of legal government Thomas Chiffinch, Eſq., became principal ſearcher of the port of Graveſend, in which he was ſucceeded by a ſon of his names. His ſon, Thomas Chiffinch, Eſq., a barrifter at law, reſided here near fifty years; leaving no iſſue, he deviſed this, with his other eſtates, to the wife of Francis Wadman, Eſq., the owner of Ifield-court. The Hive or Hythe is near the Thames, a little to the north of the London road.

Ormus, known more generally by the name of Orme, is a handſome modern ſeat, the reſidence of Charles Lefevre, Eſq.

What makes this pariſh the moſt obſervable, is the chalk, long dug, which, either in its native ſtate or burnt into lime, is ſent to London, and even Holland and Flanders: the reſuſe for manure is fold in the counties of Eſſex, Suffolk, and Norfolk; forming as it were a compoſt, by the chalk breaking ſtrong clays, and making it work well. It is ſingular, that though chalk is of ſo ſterile a nature in itſelf, and the long ridge of hills in Kent, which contains no other ſubſtance, is barren and unproductive, yet when taken and put upon land of the moſt contrary nature, it very greatly aſſiſts vegetation.

The impenſe quarries from whence the chalk for ſo many ages has been taken,  
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are as terrific as dangerous, lying close to the north side of the village, from which they extend a quarter of a mile, and are bounded by the river : on this account it is that the London road has been changed more to the south. The quarries give employment to many, supporting numerous families. It is conveyed by land and water to the neighbourhood ; but chiefly in vessels to Essex, to every creek of which boats of lime are taken.

Northfleet, in the diocese of Rochester and deanry of Shoreham, a peculiar of Canterbury, once a rectory, now a vicarage, is valued in the king's books at 21*l.*; archbishop Cranmer exchanged it with Henry VIII. The church is a very large structure, with many very ancient monumental memorials: the steeple was rebuilt in 1717, and the church beautified in the following year. The present incumbent is Gilbert Buchanan, L. L. B.

This parish anciently contributed towards repairing the ninth pier of Rochester bridge.

No other memorable circumstance is known of Northfleet, except that near the bridge a skirmish was fought between the royalists and republicans in the last century, when victory declared for the enemies of the constitution.

The orchis tribe, fond of chalky ground, even more than of the quarries near Maidstone, here flourish with the greatest luxuriance and variety; few flowers exceed them in beauty. Here are these kinds—orchis caryophyllata spica longissima rubra; orchis magna latis foliis galea fusca vel nigricante; orchis antropophora oreades; the man orchis, with a ferruginous, and sometimes a green flower; orchis myodes galea et alis herbidis; common fly orchis: orchis five testiculus vulpinus major spegodes; the humble-bee satyrion, with green wings. The first is found in chalky grounds and old pastures, lying between Northfleet and the river: the fourth kind on the chalk cliffs, though but seldom. Few flowers which the garden boasts equal the humble-bee orchis in beauty, which, notwithstanding the frequent assertions of botanical writers to the contrary, may, with others of the same tribe, be successfully cultivated in gardens, by removing them in the first instance with plenty of earth, taking care that the rude spade of the gardener does not reverse their situation in the ground when planted, or in future digging, as the root would then inevitably perish from its peculiarity, so different from any other bulb.



## E S S E X.

## BECONTREE HUNDRED.

**T**HIS in Domeſday-book was called an hundred, but is now ſtyled a half hundred.

It has few pariſhes, but they are large, and inhabited by ſome of London's richeſt merchants.

Becontree comes up to Bow-bridge, and almoſt Blackwall, near the capital: bounded on the weſt by the river Ley; on the ſouth by the Thames; on the eaſt and north-eaſt by the liberty of Havering; and on the north by the hundreds of Ongar and Waltham. It owes its name to a large beacon having been placed where Woodford windmill now ſtands. In ancient times, from the little communication, owing to extenſive forests, waſtes, and marſhes, with the badneſs of roads, ſuch ſignals were of the utmoſt conſequence. The name is written in Domeſday-book Beuentreu.

The nunnery of Barking had the entire juriſdiction of this hundred. At the diſſolution it was granted to Sir Thomas Fanſhaw, from whoſe family, by purchaſe, it went to Sir William Humphreys, Knt. and Bart.; his grand-daughter Ellen marrying Charles Gore, of Tring, Eſq., they united to diſpoſe of this hundred, and the fine eſtate they poſſeſſed in it, to Smart Lethieullier, Eſq., whoſe niece and heir took it to the Huſe family, who now own it. The archdeacon of Eſſex has the ſpiritual juriſdiction. In this diviſion of the county are the pariſhes of Barking, Dagenham, Eaſt-Ham, Weſt-Ham, Leyton, Little Ilford, Wanſted, Walthamſtow, and Woodford.

## B A R K I N G.

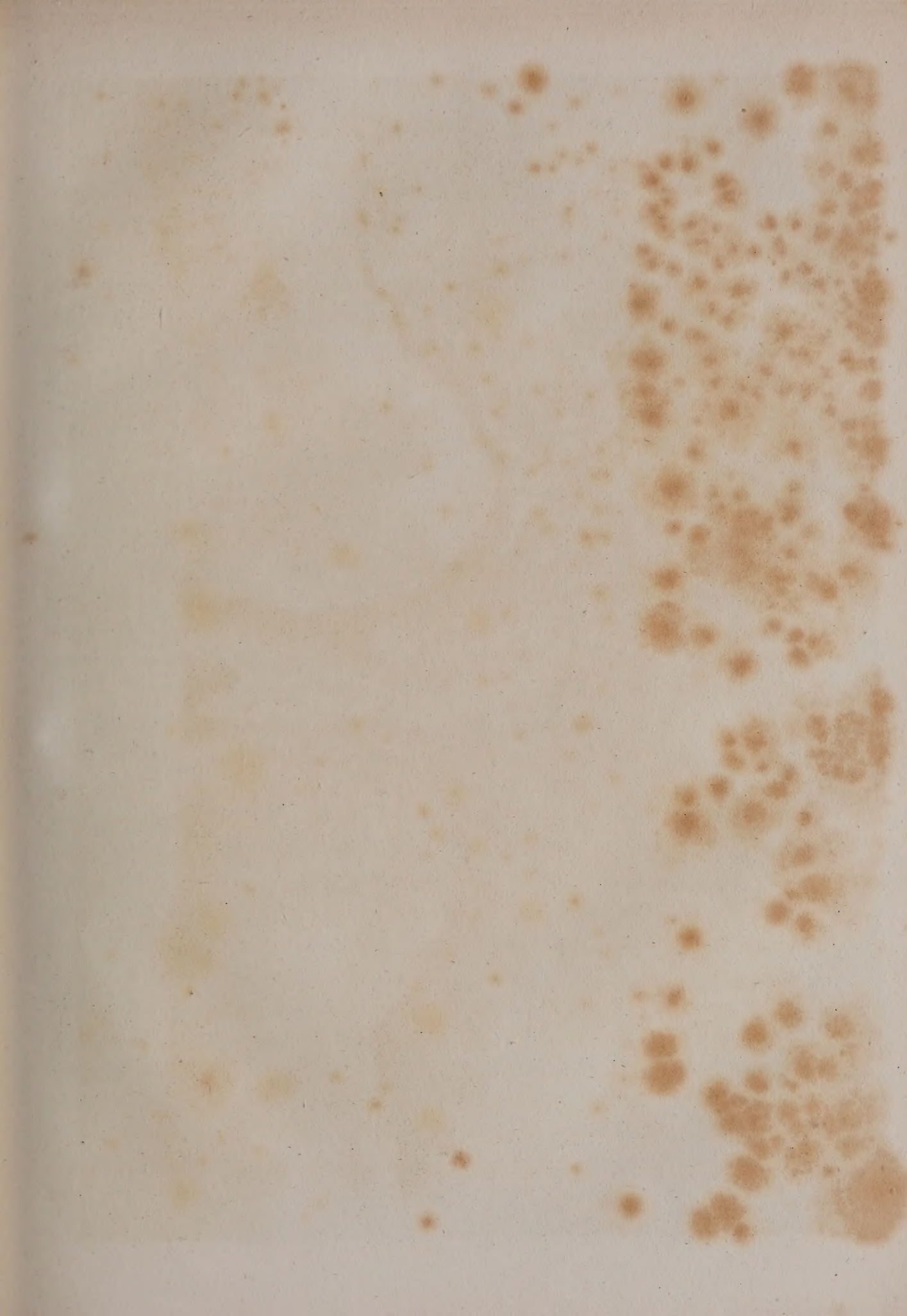
**T**HE pariſh of Barking, thirty miles in circumference, is bounded by thoſe of Eaſt-Ham, Little Ilford, Wanſted, Chigwell, and Dagenham, in Eſſex; and by that part of Woolwich which lies in Kent. The name has been very variously written; the word is derived from beorce, birch-tree, and ing, a meadow: the great quantity of birch-trees which grew here favour the conjecture. This extenſive diſtrict contains 7850 acres of land in cultivation, 1980 acres of which



are marsh land; vegetables are so much cultivated, that 300 acres are potatoe ground, and 100 planted with cabbages and other garden productions; 250 upland meadow; fifty wood; and 5170 chiefly arable; about 1500 acres are in, and compose the greatest part of, Hainault forest, parcel of that of Waltham. The small river Roding, navigable as far as Ilford, rises near Elsenham, on the north side of the county, and after running along the western extremity of Barking, flows into the Thames. This parish has four wards; each ward its own officers. The town has two churchwardens and an overseer; Ilford has one of each. Ripple and Chadwell have each an overseer, but only one churchwarden for both. The land-tax is thus divided: Barking town raises 428*l.*; Great Ilford 500*l.* 11*s.*; Ripple 446*l.* 4*s.*; and Chadwell 116*l.* 8*s.*: each paying about 2*s.* 6*d.* in the pound upon the average, except the first, which is rather more. In the seventeenth century it suffered very greatly by the plague, losing in the years 1603, 1625, 1665, and 1666, no less than 1209 souls. In the eighteenth it increased two thirds, there being 750 houses and 3906 inhabitants: the population has mostly extended at Ilford. There are two chapels of ease in the parish.

The town of Barking lies about eight miles from London, on the banks of the Roding, at the mouth of a creek leading to the Thames, from whence various articles are brought up by water to the quay. The river dividing forms a long narrow islet opposite the town. This stream gives a secondary name to several places; High-Roding, Eythorp-Roding, Leaden-Roding, &c. Barking, destroyed by the Danes in 870, was rebuilt some years after. Its consequence rose and fell with the abbey; deprived of that protection, it has become the residence of fishermen only, whose smacks lie at the mouth of the Roding: they fish to Billingsgate; and since 1730, when the river was made navigable to Ilford, the barges supply the neighbourhood with coals, timber, and other commodities. The great flour-mill, which belonged to the convent standing near the wharf, is now possessed by Edward Hulfe, Esq., but used by Mr. Smith and others: it was so considerable in Henry VIII.'s reign, that it was let for 20*l.* *per annum*. The rich marsh land that renders this place so unwholesome, and keeps the gentry from settling here, is at so low a rent, that it becomes valuable to the occupier; yet their poor are so burdensome, that in 1787 they obtained an act of parliament to build a workhouse upon an extensive plan, placing it under the government of four guardians, annually elected from each ward, and vested with the most ample power. The school, founded  
by









Queen sculp.

Dayes del.

VIEW OF FAIRLOP OAK.



by Sir James Cambell, who died in 1641, having become ruinous, rooms are appropriated for the reception of forty boys and girls in this building, where they are educated, under the superintendence of the guardians, who also have the disposal of all other public benefactions bequeathed for the use of the poor. In Barking town are two meeting-houses, one for quakers, the other intended for the methodists. Lying out of the great road, it is little frequented by strangers; but there is not only a weekly Saturday's market, but an annual fair held on October 22: what is singular, the people hold another, without a charter, under the Fairlop oak, in the forest, on the first Friday in July; a custom supposed to have arisen from an eccentric character going thither to dine with his friends. This tree, of which a correct view is annexed, is the pride and glory of Barking, and not without reason; for the rough fluted stem, three feet from the ground, measures about thirty-six feet in girth; the boughs extend in circumference 300 feet; there was, till lately, a close paling, five feet high, placed round to guard it. The bowmen, called Hainault foresters, used, some years since, to meet under the wide-spreading shade of the Fairlop oak, to show their dexterity in archery, once the strength of Englishmen when led to the hostile plains. It must not be forgotten that Barking parish is peculiarly favourable for the growth of that useful root potatoes, three roods of which have produced 9/, and a piece of land let for 4/. an acre has brought 20/. to the tenant.

As this town was only an appendage, as it were, to the rich monastery which became so famous, the lady abbess having all the inhabitants of it, and the rest of the parish, her tenants, the history of the convent is peculiarly interesting, and the more so, as it was the greatest female abbey in England. This religious foundation will be first noticed, and afterwards the various manors and seats that are in the parish, and were parts of the barony belonging to the sisterhood.

The convent of Barking was founded about the year 670, by an illustrious Anglo-Saxon nobleman, Hodelred, father of Sebbi, who, with his relation Sigheard, reigned over the East Saxons: he gave the whole parish, with its manors, wards, hamlets, and lands, to the nuns of the order of St. Benedict, whom he placed here under the protection of the blessed Virgin: this was the first or second nunnery erected in England. St. Erkenwald, bishop of London, also allied to king Sebbi, having promoted the pious work, has been generally supposed the founder: his sister St. Ethelburgh, or Alburgh, was the first abbess. St. Hildelitha, who had



been sent from France to instruct her in the duties of presiding over the house, succeeded her: to these followed St. Oswyth, daughter of Ethelfrid king of Northumberland, sister of St. Ebba, and wife of Sigheard king of Essex; St. Ethelburgh, queen of Ina king of Wessex; and Cuthburgh sister of that sovereign. Some time after the Danes destroyed the nunnery, which, after lying desolate for an hundred years, was restored by Edgar, who made Wulfhild abbess; whose resplendent beauty attracted the notice of every one. Edgar, the most amorous of princes, sought gratification; to avoid the snare, she threw herself into the religious house of Wilton: this was no protection to a sovereign whose passions were ungovernable: she was obliged to yield to dishonour—the consequence was the birth of a daughter, the equally attractive Edith. Stung with remorse, Edgar, rebuilding Barking abbey, placed Wulfhild in it. After his death, the ecclesiastics having quarrelled with this lady, appealed to Elfrida, Edgar's dowager queen, who, probably to mortify one who had been so dear to her lord, displacing Wulfhild, took the government of the convent herself. The injured abbess retired to Horton, in Devonshire, a nunnery of her own foundation, where, having presided with great prudence for twenty years, the queen, her envious rival, being brought to a sense of shame by a violent illness, restored her to the rank she justly claimed at Barking. At the end of seven years this respectable character was obliged to seek safety in London from the pagan Danes, who under the heathen, barbarous Sweyn, threatened that ruin which Canute, his son, brought upon the family of Edgar: in that city she died, and with so just a reputation, that she added a fifth name to the beatified abbesses of Barking. Edith her daughter took the veil at Wilton, but died in the bloom of beauty at the age of twenty-three, and, like her mother, was distinguished as a saint. Edith, when bishop Ethelwold rudely attempted to check that love of splendour which personal charms, even in a convent, could not resist, answered, “ God regarded the heart more than the garment, and that rags as well as robes could cover sin.”

An abbey, thus distinguished by the eminent rank and piety of those who presided over it, was highly respected by the Norman conqueror, who some time after his accession paid a visit to Alfgiva the abbess, an Anglo-Saxon lady, who had been appointed by the Confessor. Stephen, his queen, and court, also honoured the abbess with residing some days in the nunnery. The sovereigns were lavish in granting privileges and immunities to this favoured monastery. The abbesses were

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generally



generally selected from the first families of the nobility. The queens of Henry I. and Stephen did not think it beneath them to take the care of the sisterhood. Henry II. and John each made their natural daughter abbess, both of whom were named Maud. Hither Eleanor, widow of Humphry duke of Gloucester, uncle to Henry VI. retired, after her husband's death, where she remained, probably a professed nun, until her own decease in 1399. It was here that Edmund and Jasper, the sons of Catherine, dowager of Henry V. by Owen Tudor, were educated under the care of the abbess, Catherine de la Pole.

The appointment of the abbess was in the crown until the commencement of the thirteenth century, when the pope appointed the convent to elect, and the sovereign to confirm. The lady abbess possessed thirteen knights' fees and a half, and had the rank of a baroness, to whom all other abbesses gave precedence, though those of Wilton, Shaftesbury, and St. Mary in Winchester were also baronesses. As a female she could not sit in parliament, but she gave her quota of men to carry on the wars of the sovereign. In the convent she lived in baronial splendour, having chaplains, an esquire, gentlemen, gentlewomen, yeomen, grooms, a clerk-yeoman, cook, groom-cook, pudding-wife, &c. The prioress was next in rank; she was also for life: under her were two sub-prioresses, and in the absence of the lady abbess she had the management of every thing within the nunnery. These offices were annual, but often continued for many years: a chantress, high-cellarefs, an office something like a burfar of a college; under-cellarefs, chamberlain, kitcheners, two freytorefs, who had the care of the freytory or eating-hall; a pensioners, a firmarefs, who superintended the infirmary; a parlerefs, and a sacrist. Their tenantry, like those of the temporal peers, were obliged to perform services, and restricted from privileges which were incompatible with our ideas of freedom. In the rude ages, when the feudal tenure was in all its strictness, it was much softened by the tender humanity of the great, who regarded their vassals as a part of their family: the religious were peculiarly benevolent to their dependants. The foregoing statement gives the best idea of the conventual economy of the greater religious foundations. This community, the most enviable of any in England, met with a cruel enemy in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries in the Thames, which breaking his boundaries, inundated their lands, and exhausted their revenue; so that in 1410 the ladies professed had not more than fourteen shillings each for clothes and necessaries. Had not the sovereign freed them from taxes, impressed labourers to work for them,



and even appropriated the revenues of other churches to their use, they must have quitted their convent, splendid as the revenues had been. The wide-spreading evil may be judged of by the inundations at the beginning of the eighteenth century, when, after many fruitless attempts to keep out the Thames, the proprietors gave up the undertaking, and the evil was not remedied until 25,000*l.* had been expended by parliament, under the judicious management of captain John Perry.

After this convent had stood with unrivalled honour for so great a length of time, the community, seeing the fate that awaited them, signed their surrender to Henry VIII. November 14, 1539. The lady abbess, Dorothy Barley, received a pension of 200 marks; her thirty sisters, stipends according to their merits, but very inadequate to what they had given up: the former surviving the rapacious Henry, died, it is supposed, in the reign of Edward VI. his successor. Dugdale makes the revenues of the convent 862*l.* 12*s.* 5½*d.*; according to Speed they were 1084*l.* 6*s.* 2½*d.*

This nunnery was situated on the north side of the cemetery of the present church; but all its greatness is levelled with the ground, except a gateway, over which was “The chapel of the holy rood lofte atte gate, edified to the honour of Aldmighty God, and of the holy rood;” called also Fire-bell gate, from the bell hung here being used as a curfew-bell. The plan of the magnificent and elegantly regular conventual church has been discovered by Mr. Lethieullier; it was in the form of a cross: its destruction must have been a great national misfortune. It was upon a less scale than the cathedral of Canterbury now is, and at its demolition must have been dear to all those who were devoted to the Roman catholic tenets—its various altars, its many shrines of saints, must have made its sacred walls highly valued: containing the remains of illustrious ladies, honoured for their birth and rank, and beloved for their piety and beauty, none but a prince devoid of all the softer feelings would have caused the holy fane to be desecrated.

The convent, with all its appendant buildings, leased by Henry VIII. to Sir Thomas Denny, was granted by Edward VI. November 16, 1551, to Edward Fynes lord Clinton, who the following day conveyed it to Sir Richard Sackville: after various transfers it vested again in the crown. James I. in 1605 granted it to Ann Steward and Augustine Steward, to hold of the manor of East Greenwich by fealty in socage. Crispe Gascoyne, Esq. an alderman of London, sold this estate in 1747 to Joseph Keeling, Esq. whose widow is the present proprietress.



The manor of Barking, paramount of all the others in Becontree, after the dissolution, continued in the crown, until Charles I. granted it, in 1628, to Sir Thomas Fanshaw for 2000*l.*, with a reserved rent of 160*l.* now payable to the earl of Sandwich. Smart Lethieullier, Esq. in 1754 purchased the manor of the Gore family : leaving no issue, it came to Mary, only daughter and heir of his brother Charles ; she marrying Edward Hulfe, Esq., eldest son and heir of Sir Edward Hulfe, Bart., took it to that gentleman, its present possessor.

Jenkins, a manor in the parishes of Barking and Dagenham, in the reign of John was possessed by Ralph Fitzstephen ; the knightly family of Bryce held it under the abbess of Barking, and at length it settled in the Fanshaws, who had a feat here, which Sir William Humphrey, Bart. rebuilt : this is now taken down, and there only remains a moated farm-house. In the chapel of the ancient mansion was the figure of an abbess in stained glass.

Wangay or Wangey, a manor leased to John Humphrey before the dissolution, and granted by Edward VI. to Edward lord Clinton, who soon after disposed of it to Thomas Baron or Barnes ; reverting to the crown, Elizabeth granted the manor in 1601 to Joseph Heynes, from whose family, by a female, it went to the Osbastons, the coheirs of whom conveyed it to the Lethieulliers, and from them it has come to Edward Hulfe, Esq., whose tenant of the mansion-house is Mr. Barley. It stands on the south side of Chadwell heath.

Fulkys, a manor granted at the dissolution to Sir Thomas Audley ; he sold it to William Severne : after having had several owners, the Fanshaw family purchased it, and from that time this manor has gone with that of Barking. The mansion, which stood in the town, has been taken down.

Loxford, a manor or manor-farm, was given by Henry VIII. to Thomas Powle, who disposed of it to the Pouncett family, they to the Fullers ; since then it has followed the descent of Wangey.

Malmeynes, a capital messuage, with a considerable farm, called Molmans or Mammons, received the first name from a family who were lords of Cranbrook manor. Before the dissolution Sir Hugh Bryce, and Elizabeth his wife, held it of the lady abbess of Barking : in Elizabeth's reign Sir William Hewett, lord mayor of London, possessed it. After various alienations, coming to the Fanshaws, these premises have gone with the other estates which they held in the parish.

Eastbury, a manor or manor-farm, at the dissolution was granted to Sir William Denham,



Denham. It has had a series of owners since that time, and is now the joint property of three gentlemen of the name of Sterry, sons of the late Rev. Wasey Sterry. The ancient large mansion called Eastbury-house, occupied by Mr. Brushfield, stands about a mile from the town, on the road to Dagenham; some of the rooms are painted in fresco. The conspirators of the gunpowder plot, it is said, met in this house to contrive their diabolical project: lord Monteagle, to whom the letter was addressed that led to the disclosure of the design, having resided at Barking, seems to give some authenticity to the tradition.

Westbury manor, with a portion of tithes, granted by Henry VIII. to Sir William Denham, came afterwards to the Fanshaw family: it is now possessed by the widow of the late Joseph Keeling, Esq., who makes the mansion, standing a little to the east of the town, her residence.

Withfield or Wyfields, granted by Henry VIII. to Sir Thomas Audley, was soon after sold by him. After passing through various families, without remaining long in any one, it came by purchase to Andrew Moffat, Esq., whose eldest daughter took it in marriage to Andrew Moffatt Mills, Esq., son of Sir Thomas Mills. The manor-house, standing half a mile north of Ilford, is occupied by Mr. Jones.

Uphall, a capital messuage and farm, at the dissolution leased to Milo Bowdish, at the yearly rent of 7*l.*, was granted by Henry VIII. to Morgan Philips, alias Wolfe. In 1760 it was purchased by Richard Eastland, Esq., who devised these premises to his great-nephew, John Nixon, Esq. The farm-house stands on the north side of the church. Upon this estate, and adjoining the farm, about a quarter of a mile north of the town, is an entrenchment of great magnitude, being in circumference 1792 yards, or one mile and thirty-two yards, containing within it forty-eight acres, one rood, and thirty-four perches: the form, though irregular, approaches somewhat to a square. There is a single trench on the north-east and south sides; the plough has almost filled up the trench on the two former; a deep morass is on the south: on the west, parallel and near to the Roding, the bank and trench are double. A very fine spring of water is near the north-west corner, which an outlet led to; this was defended by an inner work, and a mound of earth raised very high. The work, no doubt, is Roman; from the great extent it has been supposed the foundation of a town, and from some few remains discovered in the foundations of the abbey church, it is thought that the materials



materials were used for the purpose of building Barking abbey. Among the ruins was discovered a coin of Magnentius. Many Saxon coins have been found towards the south-east part of the town.

King Henry VIII. granted the manor farm of Newberry, at the dissolution of the abbey of Barking, from Laurence Guy, who held it on lease, to Sir Richard Gresham. It was in the possession of Bartholomew Baron, or Barnes, in the year 1548; his son in 1566 sold it to Thomas Yale and Joan his wife; in 1578 it was disposed of to Joseph Heynes, Esq., whose son and heir conveyed it in 1625 to Thomas Stych, Esq.: it was mortgaged afterwards, and sold by Sir Richard Stych, Bart. in 1698, to Thomas Webster of the Middle Temple, afterwards created a baronet, who aliened it in 1747 to the late Richard Benyon, Esq., and from him it devolved to his son.

Dunshall, a farm anciently belonging to the monastery of Barking, appears to have been vested in the same proprietors till the death of Joseph Heynes, Esq. in 1621. John Hyde, Esq. of Sundridge, possessed it in 1668, in whose family it continued till 1730; Mr. John Dagge of Rotherhithe purchased it, and his niece and devisee, Mary Cherinton, married Mr. Moore; it was sold by her son Dagge Moore in 1776 to the late Mr. Edmonds of Deptford, whose second son, by will, became possessed of it.

Gayseham's hall, in the forest, was in 1360 the property of Thomas de Sandwich; he held it under the abbess and convent of Barking, with about 160 acres of land. This estate, in the time of Edward IV., was in the possession of the convent, and the mansion appears to have been a country-house of the abbess. In 1545 it was granted to Sir William Denham. William Abbot, his son-in-law, sold it in 1557 to Clement Sisley. Vincent Ranhall had it of Arthur Breame in 1571, who, it was supposed, purchased it of Sisley. In 1604 it was sold to Hugh Hare, Esq., who aliened it in 1609 to Gabriel Wight, Esq. Henry Wight had it from him, and he died without issue in 1793, having devised a moiety of his estate in Essex and Surry to John Wight, Esq. of Brabeuf-house near Guildford for life, with remainder to his right heirs, his two sisters being dead; the other moiety to William Martin the younger, son of William Martin of Blacksmith's-hall, and the heirs of his body.

Mr. Wight, grandson of Gabriel, pulled down the old mansion, which was very spacious, and built of timber.

Stonehall stands about a mile north of the church on the east side of the river



Roding, half way between Barking and Great Ilford near to Loxford. This manor was held under the abbess and convent of Barking, by a quit-rent of 1*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* and was in 1545 given by Sir John Rainsforth to Henry VIII. The king soon afterwards granted it to Sir William Denham, who in the same year sold it to Richard Breame, Esq. In 1578 Arthur Breame sold it to John Bales, who in 1579 conveyed it to Robert Devereux earl of Essex. It appears to have passed through the same hands with the manor of Wanstead, for in 1636 Sir Henry Mildmay had possession of it, and is now vested in the hands of the Tylneys.

Clay-hall manor was held under the abbess and convent of Barking by a quit-rent of 15*s.* 3*d.* and the following services: That the tenant should come in person to the abbey church of Barking, on the vigil of St. Ethelburgh the virgin, and there attend, and from the first hour of vespers guard the high altar till nine o'clock in the morning of the following day; that he should be ready at all times with a man and horse to attend the abbess and her steward, when upon the business of the convent, to any place within the distance of the four seas; and lastly, that the abbess should have by way of heriot, upon the death of every tenant, his best horse and accoutrements. The manor was in the possession of Joan, widow of Thomas Colte, Esq., and wife of Sir William Parre, at her decease, in 1475. It then descended to John Colte, her son by her former husband, in 1521, and it continued in that family till 1623, when it came into the possession of John Cambell, Esq., in whose family it continued for many years. He was descended from Robert Cambell of Foulsham in Norfolk. Sir Henry Cambell dying in 1699 left one daughter, Anne, married to Thomas Price, Esq., whose son, Cambell Price, disposed of it to Peter Eaton, Esq. in 1742. In 1769, on the death of Mr. Eaton, it descended to Mrs. Hannah Markland, who by will devised it to John Monins, Esq. Near Clay-hall there is a farm-house called St. Swithin. The old mansion belonging to this manor stood about a mile from Woodford bridge, and about four miles to the north of Barking church. This mansion was pulled down many years since, and upon its site a farm-house is built. There was a chapel of ease built by Christopher Hatton in 1616.

The manor of Beringers belonged to the abbot and convent of Stratford Langthorne; since the dissolution of that monastery, it has passed through the same hands as Ilford Parva. It was situated in the town of Barking, where there was formerly a lane called Beringers Lane.







Albury-hatch, denoting an old feat, near a hatch or low gate belonging to the forest, otherwife called Alborough-hatch, stands from Clay-hall to the south-east, and above three miles to the north-north-east from the church. It was the property of Bartholomew Barons of London, mercer, who died in 1548. His grandson, Thomas, died in possession of it in 1626. John Lockey, Esq., who died in 1713, was the proprietor in the beginning of the last century: at his death a moiety of the estate was sold to Richard Guife, Esq. On this part of the estate is a good house. Colonel Jory obtained possession of the other half of the estate, who died in 1725, and left it to Frances his niece, who married Martin Bladen, Esq., one of the lords of trade, &c. He died in February 1746. His widow left it to Ann Hodges, who in 1737 had been married to John Lambert Middleton, Esq., her second husband, brother of Sir William Middleton, Bart. This house was lately in the occupation of William Raikes, Esq., and since of Robert Henshaw, Esq.

Mrs. Frances Bladen, by her will in 1746, endowed the chapel in this house with 20*l.* per annum for ever charged upon the estate.

Great Ilford is a hamlet on the London road, about eight miles distant from that city, and one of the wards of this large parish. It contains about 170 houses, and was so called from the Ill-ford that was here before the erection of the bridge. An hospital was here founded about the end of Henry II.'s reign, or beginning of Richard I. by the abbess and convent of Barking for their leprous servants or tenants: it consisted of a secular master, a leprous master, and thirteen leprous brethren, two chaplains, and one clerk. She endowed it with 120 acres of land in Estholt, two hides of land in Upminster and Aveley, and other lands; a mill at Ilford, half the profits of the church at Barking, the tithe of all her mills in the parish, and other tithes in Barking and Warley. The charter was confirmed by king Stephen and by Maud, the successor of the foundress. Maud's confirmation was on condition that the prior and brethren should maintain a priest, and pay him 10*s.* per annum for performing divine service in the hospital chapel, and saying mass for Maud after her death. An instrument was drawn up owing to some disputes which arose relative to the endowment of the hospital; wherein, among other things, it was agreed, that the brethren of the hospital should receive 40*s.* per annum of the vicar of Barking; that on the death of a prior the brethren should elect three out of their body, one of whom should be appointed by the abbess of Barking; he might be either a layman or a priest; that the lepers should be chosen out of the houses belonging to the abbey; that they

should



should swear obedience to the abbess; that the hospital should nominate a priest for the daily service of the chapel, and the abbess another for the purpose of saying mass for the deceased. The tithes of Claybury, Jenkins, and Wyfields, with other lands, were granted by this agreement, in addition to the other advantages which the brethren possessed. In 1346, the bishop of London drew up other statutes for this hospital. Among other things it was ordained, that the original number of thirteen lepers should be kept up; that the new brethren, upon a vacancy, should be appointed by the abbess alternately with the master of the hospital, with the consent of the abbess; and rather than that the number should be diminished, any where from the parish of Barking; no married man, unless his wife should vow perpetual chastity, should be admitted into the hospital; no woman should enter the gates under any pretence, except the abbess of Barking, and such nuns as might accompany her; the near relations of the brethren, or chaplains, if sick, and the laundresses; and these to enter in and out in open day, so as to avoid any pretence for scandal. The bishop, in order to prevent infection from spreading, by the brethren quitting the hospital, was allowed to invest the chaplains with the power of confessing and absolving. Every leper, on his admission, was obliged to take the oath of obedience to the abbess and convent of Barking, to observe all the rules and laws of the hospital, and not to have any property for his own private use. There appear to have been two masters at this time; one elected from the lepers, the other to manage the secular concerns of the hospital as steward. One of these was probably called the prior.

The patronage of the hospital was, by Richard II. and Henry IV. confirmed to the abbess of Barking. Upon the suppression, it becoming the property of the crown, queen Elizabeth, in 1572, granted the patronage and advowson of the hospital to Thomas Fanshaw, with the lands and tithes belonging, and to his heirs for ever. His conditions were to appoint a master, who should keep in repair the chapel and other buildings; and provide apartments for six infirm or sound people, with an allowance to each of 2*l.* 5*s.* per annum: and that he should nominate and appoint a chaplain to perform service in the chapel. The estate thus charged descended to Thomas Fanshaw viscount Dromore, who, in 1668, granted a lease of it of one thousand years to Thomas Allen, gent. He bequeathed it in 1676, to James Clement, who, in 1690, conveyed it to Francis Stone, gent.; it then passed through



through the hands of William Stone, William Riggs, Terry Sturgeon, William Houghton, and John Thrale, whose widow Margaret sold it to her son-in-law Christopher Waldron. It was purchased of the Waldrons, in 1739, by Sir Crisp Gascoigne, alderman of London, grandfather of Bamber Gascoigne, Esq.

In 1711 there was a determination in the court of exchequer, that 1200 acres of Barking should pay to the hospital. Since this decree the tithes of Westbury have been separated from this hospital, and were by Sir Crisp Gascoigne disposed of to his younger son.

The hospital is situated on the north side of the road in the town of Ilford. It occupies three sides of a small quadrangle. On the south side is the chapel, which bears evident marks of having been built about the fifteenth century: there have been many repairs and different alterations made to it. Apartments for the pensioners are seen on the west and east sides, which are very neat though small.

Valentines, a large mansion in the forest to the north of Ilford, was built by James Chadwick, Esq. son-in-law of archbishop Tillotson, upon a spot where a small cottage before stood. It lately came into the hands of the Camerons. There are in the gardens some remarkably fine productions.

A stone coffin was found in 1724, in the fields near Valentines, in which was a human skeleton; it was laid north and south, square at the head and circular at the feet, but of the same width at both. In 1746, in the same field, was discovered an urn of coarse earth, filled with burnt bones.

Highlands, near Valentines, was built by Sir Charles Raymond, whose heirs sold it to earl Tylney. The mausoleum is a beautiful object for several miles round, and was built in 1765 by Sir Charles Raymond, who intended it for a burial-place for his family, but it was never used for that purpose.

Beehive is now a farm-house in the forest, and for many years was the seat of the Fullers and Osbastons. It was sold to John Lethieullier, Esq. in 1694, with the manors of Loxford and Wangay.

Fulwell-hatch, an old mansion which took its name from Adam Fulwell, who was the owner of it in the time of Dorothy Barley, the last abbess of Barking, was in 1617 the seat of Sir Edward Wilde.

Bifrons, the seat of the late Bamber Gascoigne, Esq. adjoins to the town of Barking; it was built by Dr. Bamber, and was enlarged and improved by his son-in-law Mr. Gascoigne.



Great Gerles, a house so called from the family of that name, who held it under the abbess of Barking, is situated in the forest, but a great part of it has been lately pulled down.

The parish church, dedicated to St. Margaret, consists of a chancel, nave, south aisle, and two north aisles, running parallel to each other the whole length of the building. At the west end is a square tower, embattled. The church of this parish, which is in the diocese of London and gives name to a deanery, was appropriated to the monastery of Barking, to which the tithes of the whole parish belonged, except those of certain lands which the hospital of Ilford was endowed with. These were granted by queen Elizabeth, with the site of the hospital, to Thomas Fanshaw, Esq.; and still continue annexed to it, except the tithes of Westbury, which were bequeathed by Sir Crisp Gascoigne to his youngest son, Joseph Gascoigne, Esq.

Mary Blackenhall had the lease of the rectory of Barking, at 10*l.* per annum, in 1541. It consisted of all such tithes as had not been leased to others. It was sold by the crown, together with the advowson of the vicarage, for the sum of 214*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* to Robert, Thomas, and Andrew Salter; this grant bears date 1550. In 1557 Sir William Petre, William Cook, and Edward Napper, executors of William Pownsett of Loxford, who had been steward to the last abbess of Barking, purchased of Thomas Barnes, the last proprietor, the rectory and advowson: and granted them to the warden and fellows of All Souls college, Oxford, on condition that they should suffer the vicar and his successors by them presented, to enjoy all the profits of the rectory and vicarage; the vicars to pray every Sunday for the souls of William Pownsett, his parents, and benefactors, and all Christian souls; to keep a yearly obit on the 8th of March, when they were to distribute certain allowances to the poor, &c.

The great tithes of the parish are now divided in certain portions between the proprietors of Ilford hospital, Eastbury-house, Gaysham-hall, Newberry, and the vicar; who enjoys under the grant of Sir William Petre all the tithes which had not been separated from the rectory. Before the year 1328 there were two vicarages in the church of Barking, that of St. Margaret to the north, and St. Margaret to the south; they were consolidated before 1398.

The first vacancy which happened after the grant to All Souls college was in 1560, when the queen disputed the validity of the grant after the Protestant religion



had been re-established. During the dispute the living lapsed to the crown. The college established their right by a suit at law against the crown; and for the better assurance of it, Sir John Petre, heir of Sir William Petre, surviving executor of Pownsett, by a deed of 1594, confirmed the former grant, omitting superstitious observances, and increasing the sum paid by the vicar to the college. The vicarage of Barking is rated in the king's books at 19*l.* per annum. There was a chapel in the parish, called St. Anne's chapel. Its site is not known. There were also three chantries. Dr. Freeman, fellow of All Souls college, bequeathed 2000*l.* for repairing and rebuilding the vicarage-house at this place. The late vicar, Dr. Musgrave, expended part of it in repairs; the remaining part was employed by Mr. Rathleigh, in 1794, vicar, in building a new vicarage-house.

There is a Quakers' meeting-house, and another belonging to the Methodists, in the town of Barking. The parish has increased in the last hundred years nearly two thirds in population; the principal increase has been at Ilford. In 1641 Sir James Cambell founded a free school; which, afterwards falling into decay, was pulled down, and a workhouse built, which now contains twenty boys and twenty girls, besides the master and mistress. A very large and commodious workhouse was built here in 1787.

The river Roding was formerly navigable only to this place, but in 1730 was made navigable to Ilford, and supplies the neighbourhood with timber, coals, &c. There is no manufacture in the parish, but the fishing trade employs numbers of its inhabitants. The several wards are rated to the land-tax as follows: Barking 2140*l.* Chadwell 832*l.* Great Ilford 2502*l.* 3*s.* and Ripple ward 2231*l.*

## D A G E N H A M.

THE parish of Dagenham follows next to Barking; it belonged to the nunnery till its dissolution, and was considered as a member of the capital manor styled Jenkins, otherwise Dagenham. The place is not mentioned in Domesday-book, being included in Barking. It is not known from whence the first part of the name is derived. There are four manors, or reputed manors, Dagenham, Cockermouth, Parsflows, and Valence. Dagenham breach, which makes a considerable figure in the map, happened December 17, 1707, caused by a violent wind and extraordinary



extraordinary high tide. It might with ease have been rectified, if attention had been immediately paid; but being neglected, the gap became 100 yards in width, and in some places twenty feet deep, covering 1000 acres of land, worth 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  an acre, raising a sand-bank in the Thames, which threatened to destroy the navigation. Parliament saw the danger, and to rectify it, laid certain duties upon the shipping. The act passed July 10, 1714. William Boswell, after asking 19,000 $\text{£}$ . to wall out the sea, and clear the river, agreed to take only 16,500 $\text{£}$ .; but he soon gave up the enterprize, which was assigned, January 26, 1715, to captain John Perry. A more proper person could not have been selected, having been employed successfully by Peter I. of Russia, in undertakings of the same kind: he was to complete the walls by November 1, 1717, and take away the sand-bank in eighteen months, commencing from April 25, 1718, for the sum of 25,000 $\text{£}$ ., and, if that should not be sufficient, an application to parliament was to be made in his favour. Thrice was the work greatly damaged by high tides, so that the money expended amounted to 40,472 $\text{£}$ . 18 $\text{s}$ . 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  $\text{d}$ . which would have involved captain Perry in the greatest difficulties, had not parliament voted him an additional sum of 15,000 $\text{£}$ . The misfortune however is, in some measure, irreparable to Dagenham; for from 1707 to 1721, the tides had worn large branches, like natural arms of a river, extending more than a mile and a half, and in some places 4 or 500 feet wide, and from twenty to forty feet deep; so that it was computed that 120 acres of marsh land were washed into the Thames. There yet remains a pool or lake of forty or fifty acres within the wall, made by the earth being carried away by the tide.

There was found from three to four feet and a half under the surface what is called moorlogg; it was about ten feet deep above a stratum of blue clay, which is twelve or thirteen inches in depth, lying upon a bed of gravel and sand. The moorlogg consists of decayed brushwood, with some trees of various kinds, willow, yew, horn-beam or alder, birch, and oak, and probably others; hazel-nuts were often seen, which had preserved their form, but crumbled with the touch: stags horns were also met with. This moorlogg extends along other parts of the banks of the Thames, at unequal depths; much conjecture has been hazarded relative to it; but the matter is easily solved, when we reflect that the Romans invariably cut down, not only woods, but vast forests in England, to accelerate their subjugation of the warlike Britons. In many parts of the kingdom timber has been found like these trees, cut off with axes, the marks of which are very visible.



visible. Whether the Romans left so many inhabitants in South Britain as they found, is very uncertain; but the ravages of the Saxons and Danes destroyed more persons than they ever brought over as settlers, which, with their rude manners and hatred to cultivation, occasioned this fruitful part of the island to become again a solitary desert: many woods, even forests, sprung up and flourished for ages, where others had before been covering the sites of many Roman villas, towns, and cities.

The manor of Dagenham was held in Edward III.'s reign by Edmund de Northtoft, whose grand-daughters Emma and Florence were his coheirs: it is only reputed as such, having lost all its rights.

Cockermouth, a manor, given in 1330 with the lands to the convent at Barking, by John de Cockermouth, clerk, of which he had held it at a quit-rent of 2*s.* 6*d.* and suit of court, was, at the dissolution, vested in the crown, until granted by Elizabeth, with Purlevants and Wildmarsh, in Riplemarsh, to Sir Anthony Browne, lord chief justice of the common pleas. It came upon his death to Wistan Brown, Esq., his brother John's grandson, who alienated the whole. From that time it has gone through a variety of hands. There is only a farmhouse remaining. Some years ago it was owned by Edward Evans, Esq., a hop-merchant of London. The mansion is a mile from the church. The only court held in the parish is for Cockerills.

Parfelowes, or Passelowes, belonged to the abbey of Barking; the first owner after the dissolution was Martin Bowes, Esq., who, with Frances his wife, conveyed it, in 1568, to Rowland Hayward or Haywood, an alderman of London, and Thomas Wilbraham: afterwards coming into the Fanshaw family, it passed, by marriage, to the Gascoynes, by an heir general; since to the Muilmans, and was part of the estate of the late generous but unfortunate Richard Muilman-Trench Chiswell, Esq. The mansion is about a mile north-west of the church. In the seventeenth century it was held of Barking manor, in free socage, at the quit-rent of 9*s.* 1¼*d.*

Valence, a reputed manor, so called from the surname of the ancient earls of Pembroke, who held it of the convent of Barking, by the service of attending the lady abbess with two horses, having reasonable notice. Henry Merttins, Esq., elder brother of Sir George Merttins, lord mayor of London, just preceding his death, purchased



purchased this manor, which he devised to John Henry Mертtins, Esq., whose mansion stands about half a mile north of Passetlowes.

This parish, in the same deanry and diocese as Barking, is a vicarage, in the gift of the Fanshaw family, valued in the king's books at 19*l.* 10*s.* The church, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, has a chancel, nave, and north aisle, with a tower.

Richard Uphill, Esq., standard-bearer to William and Mary, Ann, and George I., is buried in this church; he was a great benefactor to the parish.

### E A S T H A M.

THE parish of Eastham, to the south-east of Barking, contains about 2000 acres; 900 marsh, 60 upland and pasture, and 1040 arable; 450 of the latter have been recently planted with potatoes, and 120 with cabbages and other vegetables. The land, unless where marshy, is a light gravel. Eastham has 150 dwellings, and is rated at 627*l.* 8*s.* to the land-tax, being about 2*s.* 3*d.* in the pound. In Domesday-book it is not distinguished from Westham.

The manor, anciently demesne, was given to Westminster abbey before the Conquest. Preceding the year 1226, it had become the property of the Moignes family, who held it by the grand serjeantry of being caterers of the king's kitchen. The Montfichets possessing it afterwards, took the whole in marriage to the de Bolebecs, one of whom, leaving only daughters, divided Eastham into two manors. Philippa de Bolebec taking her share called Eastham-hall to Roger de Lancaster; their son, John de Lancaster, in 1319 gave it, after his own death and that of Annora his wife, to the convent of Stratford. At the dissolution Henry VIII. granted it to Richard Breame, Esq.; after various transfers it was purchased by Sir John Henniker, Bart., the present owner. The mansion, standing near the church, is converted into a farm-house.

Eastham Burnels, the other moiety, also become a manor, took the latter name from its purchaser, Robert Burnel, bishop of Bath and Wells. This moiety was in the seventeenth century again divided, and is now possessed by Sir Robert Smyth, Bart., and Stephen Comyn, Esq. It is singular, that when a court was held for this, and some other adjoining manors in Westham, the tenants of Eastham Burnels always



treated those of Westham Burnels and Plaiz, from an idea, that at some remote period those of the former had refused to contribute towards raising a sum sufficient to ransom their lord, when a prisoner; a custom remembered by persons still living.

At Green-street, a mile north-west of the church, is an ancient mansion, the supposed residence of some of the Nevil family: it is now the property and seat of William Morley, Esq.

Eastham, a vicarage, is in the gift of the bishop of London, and in the same deanry and diocese as the preceding parishes. It is valued in the king's books at 14*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.* The church, dedicated to Mary Magdalene, appears very ancient: from the cemetery is a good prospect into Kent. Among the monuments those of the Nevil family are most remarkable: the long poetic inscriptions are wretched even to barbarism. It was given by John de Lancaster to the abbey of Stratford-Langthorne; but the devastations of the river injuring the living so much, it was endowed with the whole tithes; yet at the dissolution they were granted to Richard Breame, Esq.; they still continue private property. The present vicar is Francis Haultain, D. D.

There is an alms-house founded in 1621 by Giles Breame, Esq., for three poor men in this, and three of Bolisham parish, in Cambridgeshire. The estate, amounting to 49*l.* 4*s.*, is divided between the two parishes; but all the alms-men are parishioners of Eastham. The edifice was rebuilt in 1791.

The Rev. Dr. Stukeley, rector of St. George's, Queen-square, F. A. and R. S., a native of Holbech, in Lincolnshire, so universally known as an able antiquary, was buried in the cemetery, March 9, 1765. By his own desire the turf was placed flat upon his grave; he long had fixed upon the spot. He died at the vicarage-house upon a visit to the Rev. Joseph Simms.

## W E S T H A M.

ADJOINING to Eastham is this parish, containing 4500 acres; 1970 arable, and 2530 meadow and marsh; about 500 of the arable yield potatoes, and 200 turnips: near the forest there is some loam; the rest is gravelly, except the marshes. The village is a little south of the great road, lying four miles from Whitechapel. It contains the hamlets of Stratford, Plaistow, and Upton, and is divided into three wards—Church-street, paying 529*l.* 12*s.* to the land-tax; Stratford-Langthorne,

assessed



assessed at 546*l.* 10*s.*; and Plaistow, at 784*l.* 10*s.*: each has a churchwarden and overseer. In the parish are 1105 houses, and 6485 inhabitants. The parish had a charter procured by Richard de Montfichet, in 1253, for holding a Tuesday's weekly market, and an annual fair upon the vigil, feast, and two succeeding days of St. Margaret's festival. There are considerable manufactories of calico-printing, which employ some hundred persons. The water-works, erected here in 1745, supply the villages of Stratford, Bromley, Bow, Stepney, Bethnal-green, and the lower part of Whitechapel. They are worked by engines of steam and water; the reservoir is at Mile-end. There are four proprietors.

As Barking was famous for nuns, so was Westham for monks; William Montfichet in 1135 founding an abbey for the order of Cistercians, dedicated to the Virgin Mary and All Saints. It was so amply endowed by him and the benefactions of others, that the abbot was summoned to parliament in 1307. At the suppression the monastery possessed an income of 652*l.* 3*s.* 1*¼d.* It was surrendered March 29, 1538, by William Huddleston, the abbot, with the priest, sacrist, chanter, and eleven monks, one of whom by his mark, because he could not "wrytte." Henry VIII. granted the conventual church, St. Richard's chapel, site of the monastery and its appendages, to Sir Peter Mewtas or Meautis, knight, late ambassador to France. His descendant in 1633 disposed of the site, 240 acres of land, abbey mills, &c. to Sir John Nulls. They were purchased in 1786 by Mr. Thomas Holbrook, who now owns them.

The abbey stood about three furlongs south-west of the parochial church: the site of the moated precincts contains about sixteen acres. A part of a chapel and door-way, adjoining to the Adam and Eve public house, remains, as does a brick gateway, the entrance to the precinct; it is a little to the north. The foundations of the monastery were taken up and carried away by Mr. Holbrook: nothing was discovered worthy noticing but a small onyx seal, set in silver, bearing a griffin, with the legend, *Nuncio vobis gaudium et salutem*—supposed a privy seal of an abbot. In this convent was buried, in 1335, John de Bohun, earl of Hereford and Essex, high constable of England. About the time of the dissolution, Margaret countess of Salisbury resided within the precincts; two years afterwards she closed her unhappy days upon the scaffold, sacrificed to the barbarous and unmanly revenge Henry VIII. bore to her son, cardinal Pole, as her brother the earl of Warwick had been to the suspicious temper of Henry VII.



Maud, consort to Henry I., having undergone some danger at the old ford upon the road leading from Essex to London, made another between Stratford, Bow, and Westham, with suitable causeways and bridges; that over the Ley river, being the first in the county arched with stone, obtained the name of Bow: to keep this and the road in proper repair, she gave some manors and Wiggon mill to the abbess of Barking, who conveyed them to the abbot of Stratford to perform the conditions; but he neglecting it, a court of law in 1315 compelled him and his successors to fulfil the agreement: the lady abbess gave the prior 200*l.* in silver, probably as a satisfaction for the expense and trouble his neglect had caused. The tenants of the monastic land having refused to perform the duties annexed to their estates, the court of king's bench, in 1691, obliged them. If they have duties to discharge, they have privileges annexed to their lands, having liberty to enjoy all the emoluments and immunities the abbot's tenants ever possessed.

The manor of Westham was held by Alestan a freeman, prior to, and by Ranulph Peverell and Robert Gernon, after the Conquest. William de Montfichet endowed Stratford abbey, his foundation, with all his lordships and demesne lands in Westham; yet they soon became again lay property; for in 1446 Thomas Bernwell gave them to the convent in exchange for lands in Havering. Remaining in the crown after the dissolution, these estates have been granted for the use of Henry prince of Wales; his brother Charles, previous to his accession, as a part of the jointure of his queen Henrietta-Maria; and became also part of the revenue of Catherine, dowager of Charles II. It was let by the crown at a reserved rent to George Booth, Esq., in 1693, for a term of ninety-nine years, commencing from her majesty's death, which happened in 1705; the rent was remitted. The remainder of the term is now in Sir John Henniker, Bart., who lately purchased it. During the usurpation Silas Taylors, and other creditors of the government, bought this, with other demesne lands, at the rate of thirty-two years purchase.

East Westham manor was granted to Sir Roger Cholmondeley, in 1553; since then it has sometimes been in separate moieties, at others united; at present Sir Robert Smyth, Bart., owns one, and Stephen Comyn, Esq., the other part.

Playz, a manor, taking its name from Hugh de Playz, who married Philippa, sister and coheir of Richard de Montfichet. Sir Richard de Playz in 1353 gave it to the monastery of Stratford-Langthorne. At the dissolution, being granted to

Sir



Sir Roger Cholmondeley, the same proprietors possessed this as the manors of East Westham.

Westham Burnels manor has always gone with Eastham Burnels, since the suppression of the convent.

Bretts, a manor, possessed by John Ferrers; he died in 1478. It has since passed through very illustrious, but unfortunate hands, having been owned by Edward earl of Warwick, after whose decapitation it was settled upon Catherine, the first queen of Henry VIII., then granted to Margaret countess of Salisbury, at whose untimely end, vesting again in the crown, Sir Peter Meautis and Jane his wife received it for their lives; the fee was granted by Elizabeth to Sir Thomas Heneage. Joseph Beauchamp, Esq., is the present possessor.

Cobhams or Chobhams, a manor held under the abbot of Stratford-Langthorne and Hugh Burnel, was the property of Sir Adam Francis at the beginning of the fifteenth century: it is now that of Sir John Henniker, Bart. The manor-house is about a mile north-west of the church, in the road leading from Stratford to Leyton.

Wood-grange manor, some tithes, with certain privileges and immunities belonging to Stratford monastery, was, at its suppression, under a sixty years lease to Morgan Philips, alias Wolfe. They were granted by Elizabeth for seventy years, commencing from the termination of the preceding term, to Robert earl of Leicester, her great, but every way unworthy favourite. George Carew, Esq., owned the remainder of the term in 1605: in 1627 he obtained a grant in perpetuity of this manor, paying a yearly quit-rent of 27*l.* 2*s.* Previous to this he had been created by Charles I. earl of Totness, in Devonshire, his native county: he was a character the most opposite to Leicester; he rose by his merit from a younger brother's fortune in the service of the earl of Warwick, to be a nobleman of equal rank, and died March 27, 1629, a wise and faithful minister to three sovereigns, each of whom no less esteemed than trusted him. He saw, admired, and loved Joice, only daughter and heiress of William Clopton, of Clopton-hall, near Stratford-upon-Avon, in Warwickshire, Esq., who, sensible of his extraordinary merit, as well as personal accomplishments, ardently wished to give him her hand, though then much inferior in point of fortune to herself: but there was an invincible obstacle; he was a strenuous protestant, Mr. Clopton a most bigotted Roman catholic. The proposition made by a common friend was so distasteful, that he refused ever to see him.



him. After some time, Mr. Clopton admiring the elegant person, and charmed with the many accomplishments of a young gentleman whom he met with in the chase, invited the unknown stranger to his seat: he seemed to yield with reluctance; an eclairsissement took place: the enraptured parent gave a willing consent to an union with so much worth. It is difficult to determine whether Mr. Clopton was more blessed in such a son-in-law, or the earl and his countess with each other. Unfortunately, lord Totness having no issue, the title became extinct; she surviving, enjoyed Wood-grange. She is buried near him in the church of Stratford-upon-Avon, under a superb monument, which gives their effigies. This manor is now possessed by Mr. John Peacock in right of his wife, whose relations had held it some years.

Christendom-house stood in this parish: it was the seat of Robert Christendom in 1443, who devised his manors in Westham, Stratford-Langthorne, Eastham, Leyton, Barking, and Dagenham, with his rents, lands, and services in those parishes, to be disposed of, and the money given for masses, and benefactions to the poor, for the good of his own soul and those of his ancestors. This ancient mansion stood at Plaistow; it is now taken down.

Hyde-house, a very ancient mansion, is also at Plaistow: the windows have several coats of arms stained in the glass, and there are the dates 1559 and 1579 on a wall near, and over a gateway leading to the seat. Tradition says it was inhabited by the monks of Stratford, after the suppression of their convent. In the seventeenth century Sir Thomas Foot, lord mayor of London, and after him the Onflows, made it their residence. It is now occupied by Mr. John James.

Westham, in the same ecclesiastical jurisdiction, is a vicarage, in the gift of the crown, valued in the king's books at 39*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* The church, dedicated to All Saints, is a large structure, with a square tower seventy-four feet high, containing ten bells. There is a monument of Sir Thomas Foot, lord mayor of London in 1650, and his lady: he died October 12, 1688, in his ninety-sixth year: she October 12, 1667, in the seventy-fourth year of her age. The Rev. William Cropley is the present incumbent.

There is a charity school, which has received benefactions to the amount of 3000*l.*, where twenty girls and forty boys are educated. Mrs. Mary Bonnel, in 1761, bequeathed 3000*l.* to endow a girls' school, where forty females are clothed, and



and taught reading and writing : sewing, knitting, and spinning, would perhaps have been better than writing.

The Roman catholics have a chapel at Stratford, and the presbyterians had a meeting-house ; the latter has long been disused. The methodists have a meeting-house and burying-ground in Brickfields, and the quakers a meeting-house at Plaistow.

Aaron Hill, Esq. so well known as a poet and dramatic writer, chose Plaistow for his retirement, spending his time in study, educating his family, and cultivating his garden. He died February 8, 1750, aged sixty-five. George Edwards, Esq., F. R. S. who published the Natural History of Birds, was born at Stratford in this parish, April 3, 1693 ; he died July 23, 1773, and was buried in the churchyard : his abilities procured him the acquaintance of the first literary characters, and his virtues their esteem.

John and Esther Flowerday, on December 16, 1789, had John, Henry, and Sarah, their children, baptized, being all born on one day. A monument in the church acquaints us that John Hammerton, Esq., serjeant at arms to Henry VIII., with Edith his wife ; Richard Hammerton, of Tedston, in Yorkshire ; John and Richard his sons, all fell sick in one hour, and died in an hour, in 1512. In the church is also a tomb to protect the remains of William Millington, Joan his wife, Henry and Susan their son and daughter, who all died on August 20, 1683. In the register is this dreadful catastrophe recorded : “ April 16, 1690, Peter Paine  
“ and his wife, and his son Peter, and the parson, and his maid, was blown up,  
“ all in one day,” by an explosion of gunpowder.

## L E Y T O N.

TO the north of Westham is Leyton, or Low Leyton : the name is expressive of its situation upon the Ley river. It contains 1700 acres in about these proportions ; 150 marsh, 250 waste in Epping forest, twenty-five used by nurserymen and market gardeners ; the remainder equally meadow and arable ; 200 of the latter are used for raising potatoes. The soil gravel, with fine springs, or clay. Leyton is assessed 458*l.* 12*s.* to the land-tax, being about 2*s.* in the pound. There are about 380 houses in the parish, 180 of them taxable. Temple mills, used



some years since for brafs-works, are now employed in the manufacture of sheet lead.

The manor of Leyton, or Leyton Grange, at the Conquest belonged to Robert de Corbutie. Walter Corpechun gave, and Ralph de Arderne confirmed it to the convent of Stratford-Langthorne. At the dissolution Henry VIII. granted it to the lord chancellor of England, Thomas lord Wriothesley, afterwards earl of Southampton; who the day following conveyed it to Sir Ralph Warren, from whose family, by marriage, it went to Sir Henry Williams, alias Cromwell, Knt., and to his son Sir Oliver Williams, alias Cromwell, knight of the Bath, grandfather and uncle to the protector Oliver Cromwell: Sir Oliver sold it in 1599 to the Rider family. This manor was afterwards divided into various moieties; all the parts have lately been reunited by John Pardoe, Esq., except the manor-house, which is owned by Thomas Lane, Esq.

Marks, a manor, part of the possession of St. Helen's priory, at the suppression granted to the Withipols, has, after various transfers, been purchased by Mr. Pardoe. The ancient mansion stood upon the confines of this and Walthamstow parishes; the present one still retaining the name of Mark's-hall: it is used as a farm-house.

Ruckolt, anciently Rocholt, Rookwood, belonged, in the thirteenth century, to the family of Bumpsted. It came to the crown by the attainure of Sir Richard Charlton, for his adherence to Richard III.: was granted by Henry VII. to Sir John Rysley, at whose death returning to the crown, Henry VIII. gave it to the Comptons, ancestors of the earls of Northampton, one of whom sold the manor to Henry Parfish, gent., whose widow marrying Sir Michael Hickes, secretary to the prime minister lord Burleigh, that gentleman purchased it of the heirs of Mrs. Parvis, and it became the seat of the Hickes's, for some time. Sir James Tylney-Long, Bart., is now the possessor. The mansion standing about a mile south of the church is supposed to have been that in which Sir Michael Hickes received his sovereign queen Elizabeth. William Barton in 1742, 1743, and 1744, used it as a place of public amusements, where breakfasts and afternoon concerts were weekly given during the summer, and sometimes oratorios performed. In 1757 the house was taken down.

There was another manor owned by Peter de Valoines at the Conquest, which Gunnora, his descendant, gave to the nunnery of Holiwell, and at the dissolution



was granted to Morgan Philips, alias Wolfe: it is now supposed to be united to Leyton.

Forest-house belonged to Waltham abbey. Charles earl of Norwich owned, resided, and probably died in it, in 1670, as he was buried at Leyton. This is now the seat of Samuel Bosanquet, Esq., whose family purchased it of Sir John Heathcote, Bart.

Walwood-house, with an estate annexed, is leased by the crown to Dorothea Owley, but is occupied by Robert Williams, Esq.

Leyton, a vicarage, in the diocese of London and deanry of Barking, was given to Stratford-Langthorne priory, by Gilbert de Montfichet, and confirmed by Henry II. At the dissolution the great tithes and presentation went with the manor until 1649; like the latter, they have been divided. It is valued in the king's books at 18*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.* The church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, is a brick edifice, rich within and without in sculptured marbles, to the memory of the titled dead, and others of consequence from their gentility or riches. The present incumbent is the Rev. Thomas Keighley, A. M.

At Leytonstone, the principal hamlet, are several good houses, chiefly the residence of merchants. James I. resided at Leytonstone in the month of June 1604. Here is a chapel built about 1750, by William Dunster, Esq., but not opened till 1754, owing to disputes between the owner and the vicar: it is now allowed to be a chapel of ease to the mother church, the vicar presenting, and the bishop licensing the chaplain. As one third of the population of the parish is contained in this hamlet, this chapel is a very great convenience.

There are several public schools at Leyton. Mr. Robert Ozler in 1697 left 300*l.* for building a free-school, and settled 12*l.* per annum on the master. The school has lately been rebuilt: the number of boys educated here are fourteen, half from this, and half from Walthamstow parish. In 1794 a school of industry was established for thirty girls; and there are four Sunday schools, where 120 children are taught their duty to God, themselves, and their neighbours; these are supported by voluntary subscriptions.

Mr. John Smith, a merchant, in 1656 founded and endowed alms-houses for eight poor persons; the 20*l.* he left them has been augmented by Messrs. Charles and John Philips, brothers, to 38*l.*

In this parish resided lady Margaret Brian, the governess of three sovereigns,



Edward VI., Mary I., and Elizabeth: Sir Michael Hickea, the elder brother of Baptist Hickea, created viscount Campden; he was secretary of lord Burleigh, and, like his employer, was curious in making remarks upon whatever occurred. Strype was greatly indebted to his collections. Sir Michael had the friendship of Sir Robert Cecil, afterward earl of Salisbury, Sir Walter Raleigh, Sir Francis Bacon, Camden, and other illustrious contemporaries: he died August 5, 1612. Sir Thomas Rowe, ambassador from James I. to the Great Mogul, was a native of Leyton. Mr. John Wood, who in his youth visited various parts in the four quarters of the globe, resided and died here in 1660, having contributed much to the rebuilding of the church. David Lewis, Esq., a dramatic poet, the friend of Pope, died April 8, 1760, aged seventy-seven, and is buried here, as was his widow, who lived to the age of ninety. Mr. William Bowyer, the learned printer, was buried with his relatives, at Low-Leyton, November 25, 1777. Edward-Rowe Mores, Esq. lived many years at Leyton, in a house built by himself, of a peculiar form, now called Etloe-place. Samuel Skeene, the puritanical vicar of Leyton, acted also in the capacity of captain in the parliament army, and tradition says preached in his buff coat. The opposite to this furious, sanguinary fanatic, was the pious, learned John Strype, who for sixty-six years faithfully performed the duties of his sacred function in this neglected parish. The emolument was so small, he never received institution nor induction. The chancel was repaired, the vicarage-house rebuilt by him. He died at Hackney, December 11, 1737, aged ninety-four, and is buried in the chancel of this church. His numerous and excellent works will ever continue his justly-acquired fame as an antiquary and historian. "Old" John and Jane Hutton, of Leytonstone, lived to a very advanced age, she being buried June 12, 1672, aged ninety-five; he February 8, 1679-80, aged 106 years.

It is evident that the Romans had a villa here, from the many remains of architecture belonging to them, discovered near the manor-house, as well as consular and imperial coins and urns. Near the Temple mills in 1783 a stone coffin, in which were several pieces of armour, was found in making a channel; this latter probably was a deposit long subsequent to the Roman era.



## LITTLE ILFORD.

LITTLE Ilford, on the west of Barking; the name of Little is given to distinguish it from an hamlet in that parish. Ilford was anciently written Eleford, from eald, old, and ford, one having been there long before the bridge was built. It contains only 670 acres; 480 arable, 120 of it potatoe ground; the rest is grafs, chiefly marfh. The foil is generally a light gravel. The land-tax is 7*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.*, being about 1*s.* 2*d.* in the pound. There are only fifteen houfes in the parish. It is particularly noted for its great mart of cattle from Wales, Scotland, and the north of England, which continues from the end of February to the beginning of May, on a part of Epping foreft lying in Ilford, Eastham, Weftham, Leyton, and Wanfted; much of the bufinefs is fettled on the high road at Rabbits, within the parish.

The manor now called Ilford Parva was granted at the Conqueft to Gofcelin Loremar, and afterwards given to the convent of Stratford-Langthorne. At the diffolution it was granted to Morgan Philips, alias Wolfe. Coming to the family of the late Henry Wight, Efq., he devifed it, after the deceafe of fome relations fince dead, to John Wight, Efq., and Mr. William Martin, junior.

Alderfbroke manor was purchafed by Cromwell, the vicar-general, for the ufe of his fovereign, from George Monox. Henry is fuppofed to have granted it to Sir John Heron, treafurer of his chamber; his grandfon Giles, the hufband of Cecilia, the daughter of Sir Thomas More, loft it by attainure: the fickle monarch gave the manor to Anthony Knevet, Efq., for life, and fome time after in fee to Catherine Adington, widow, and Thomas her fon. The late Sir James Tylney-Long, Bart., purchafing, took down the old manfion, and built a farm-houfe upon the fite: he devifed it to his fon the prefent baronet.

The parish, a rectory in the deanry of Barking and diocefe of London, is valued in the king's books at 11*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.* It is in the gift of the lord of the manor. The Fifhmongers' company pay the rector 3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* devifed by Sir John Heron in 1521. The church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, is fmall but remarkably neat; the low tower has a cupola. Amongft other monuments is that of Smart Lethieullier, of Alderboke, Efq., who was born November 3, 1701, and died Auguft 27, 1760, whose MSS. and varied collections of Englifh foßils, medals, antiquities,

and



and curiosities, evince his sense, knowledge, learning, taste, and diligence. The present incumbent of Ilford is the Rev. Hugh Price, A. M.

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W A N S T E D.

THE parish of Wansted, north of Leyton, derived from wan, white, and stede, mansion, is very pleasant, the higher grounds commanding a view of the capital. Exclusive of the forest, it contains about 600 acres; 100 being corn, fifty potatoe grounds, and the rest grass; the soil is chiefly gravel, but in some parts clay or loam. It is rated at 235*l.* 16*s.* to the land-tax, making above 3*s.* 6*d.* in the pound. There are 150 houses in the parish; more than half of them mansions.

The manor in the reign of the Confessor was alternately possessed by the abbey of Westminster, the cathedral of St. Paul in London, and the prelates of that church, under whom, after the Conquest, Ralph Fitz Brien held. Escheating to the crown by the attainure of Sir Giles Heron, Edward VI. granted it to his chancellor Robert lord Rich, whose son conveyed it to Robert earl of Leicester; he devised this manor, with his estates in Wansted, Woodford, Walthamstow, Great Ilford, and Leyton, to his countess and her heirs; she marrying Sir Christopher Blount, it came, by some stipulations, to Charles Blount, earl of Devonshire, upon whose death without issue in 1606, it is supposed to have vested in the crown. George Villers, marquis, afterwards duke of Buckingham, owned this manor, probably by grant from James I. The Mildmays purchasing it of the favourite, conveyed Wansted to the ancestors of Richard Child, baron Newton, viscount Castlemaine, and earl of Tylney; from which family, by female descent, it came to the grandfather of the present possessor, Sir James Tylney-Long, Bart.

Wansted-house has been for more than two centuries a place of great importance from its royal or noble owners. There was a very ancient manorial mansion called Naked-hall Hawe, probably taken down by the lord chancellor Rich, who upon the site built a seat which gave place to the present superb edifice, one of the finest in Britain, the design being as correct as the structure is spacious. The front is of Portland stone, extending 260 feet; the beautiful hexastyle centre is supported by Corinthian columns. The rooms are proportionable to the building, the great hall being fifty-one by thirty-six, the ball-room seventy-five by twenty-seven, and the
faloon

faloon thirty feet square. There are four state bed-chambers, and every thing else within and without in equal magnificence—whether we contemplate the pictures, furniture, the grounds, gardens, or the water. The edifice was designed by the architect Colin Campbell; the pleasure-grounds by the owner, previous to building the present structure.

History acquaints us that Mary I. lodged at Wansted-house some days prior to her accession. Elizabeth visited her favoured Leicester, and remained with him four or five days in May 1578. Here he kept his splendid wedding in the following September, with the countess of Essex, whom he was supposed to have purchased by the previous murder of her former lord. At his death his furniture and stock here was valued at 1119*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*—how different was the supposed worth of portraits then to what it is now, when those of Henry VIII., Mary, Elizabeth, lady Casimour, lady Rich, and thirty-six others were only prized at 11*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*! and yet these were no doubt originals by the best masters. James I. made it a royal palace. In September 1607 his majesty resided some time at Wansted after his return from his western progress. In June 1615 he was again there. Few characters stand higher than that of the founder of the Child family, the owner of Wansted; Sir Josiah Child, Bart., son of Richard Child, Esq., both eminent merchants. Sir Josiah died in 1699; and was succeeded by Sir Richard his son, created earl of Tynney. The Childs began the banking business, which so highly exasperated the governors of the national bank, that retaining their bills to a vast amount, they presented them all at one time: Sir Richard representing the designed injury to Sarah duchess of Marlborough, her grace immediately gave him a draft upon the Bank for half a million, which she had there: sensible of the impotence of the intended vengeance, an explanation took place, and the Childs became the first private banking-house in Britain, perhaps in the universe, a pre-eminence which that house still retains.

Canon-hall, or Can-hull, before the dissolution belonged to the priory of the Holy Trinity; it was afterwards granted by Henry VIII. to Nicholas Sympfon and Joan his wife. Coming again to the crown, Mary gave it to John Shelley; at the death of his son it went to two persons descended maternally from the Shelleys. The whole is now possessed by Robert Cotgrave, of Illeworth, in Middlesex, Esq.

George Bowles, Esq., has a seat in Wansted, built by Sir Francis Dashwood about a century ago: it has been owned by Sir Orlando Bridgman, Mr. Gough,

Matthew

Matthew Wymondfold, Esq.; and by Humphry Bowles, Esq., father of the present proprietor.

Wansted, a rectory in the patronage of the lord of the manor, is valued in the king's books at 6*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.* The church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, though repaired and enlarged in the beginning of the present century, has been rebuilt at the request of the present worthy incumbent, the Rev. Samuel Glasse, D. D., in a manner becoming the resident of the splendid seat of Wansted. The edifice is brick cased with Portland stone; the portico of the Doric order; the cupola at the west end supported with eight Ionic columns; the chancel, nave, and side aisles are separated by Corinthian columns; the pavement is of Painswick stone, a place in Gloucestershire. In the chancel is a stained glass window by Mr. Eginton, near Birmingham, representing our blessed Lord bearing his cross, from a picture at Magdalen college, Oxford; in the east window of the north aisle are the royal arms; in the south aisle those of the late Sir J. T. Long, Bart. The church was begun July 13, 1787, and consecrated June 24, 1790. The inside is elegantly neat. There are some monuments: that of Sir Josiah Child in the chancel is very superb.

A singular benefaction was left to this parish by Mrs. Frances Harrison, widow, 1690, of a house for the residence of the widow of the rector, and if there be no such person, the rent to go to the poor; but there has never any advantage arisen from this judicious devise.

There are two charity-schools, one for boys, the other for girls, supported by voluntary contributions.

Sir William Penn, high admiral of England to Oliver, who was also respected and employed by Charles II., died in this parish in 1670: as did admiral Buckle, in July 1784. He signalized himself in taking the *Glorioso* in 1741. Two of the rectors were distinguished for their abilities. The poetic John Saltmarsh, one of the best of the puritanical preachers, died of a fever in 1648, brought on perhaps by contemplating the horror of the times. What he spoke in his delirium were believed inspirations by the enthusiasts. James Pound, who held this church from 1707 to 1724, has rendered his fame permanent as a naturalist and astronomer; and the present learned rector has obtained a deserved niche in the temple of literature.

This place, lying near a Roman road called Southern Icening-street, was a villa of some consequence. In 1715 a tessellated pavement was discovered in planting an avenue of trees in the park, not farther than 300 yards from the south foundations

of the buildings: since which time, coins, urns, pateræ, and other remains of that people have been found.

WALTHAMSTOW.

THE name of this village is derived from the Saxon words, weald, a wood; ham, a manor; and stowe, a place. The parish lies in the hundred of Becontree. It is bounded by Chingford, Woodford, Wansted, and Leyton in Essex, and by the river Lea in Middlesex. The extent is considerable, having 4320 acres: 3000 of which are enclosed; 350 open fields; 130 enclosed woodlands; and 820 roads and waste: pasture predominates, but arable increases: in 1795 the latter from 425 had multiplied to 602 acres. The soil is gravel, sand, loam, or clay; the latter generally prevails. There are the following hamlets: How-street, Wood-street, Marsh-street, Clay-street, Chapel-end, &c.

The manor of Walthamstow was the property of Waltheof earl of Northumberland in the reign of Edward the Confessor, whose daughter and coheir brought it in marriage to Ralph de Toni, standard-bearer to William the Conqueror. For several years it remained in his posterity. In 1309 the family became extinct in Robert de Toni; he dying without issue, when the inheritance of the manor of Walthamstow, called Walthamstow Tony, went to his sister, relict of Thomas de Leybourne, afterwards married to Guy de Beauchamp earl of Warwick. About this time a part of the estate was granted away and took another name, that of Low Hall, or Walthamstow Bedyk. After the death of the earl, this sister married William le Zouch, who survived her and held this manor till his own death in 1337, when the inheritance devolved on Thomas Beauchamp earl of Warwick. Thomas the succeeding earl, being attainted, was beheaded and his estates forfeited, and the manor of Walthamstow Tony was granted to William Scroop earl of Wiltshire. The earl of Wiltshire was attainted on the accession of Henry IV., and the earl of Warwick's son being restored to the estates and honours, died seised of this manor in 1401. In 1445 Henry earl of Warwick died, leaving an only daughter, an infant, who survived but four years; his estates were then divided with his two sisters, Eleanor and Anne. Eleanor, who had the manor of Walthamstow Tony, first married lord Roos, and afterwards Edmund duke of Somerset. She died in 1467. From her this manor descended to the daughter and heir of the earl of Rutland; who marrying Sir William Cecil, son

and heir of the earl of Exeter, died in the possession of it in 1591, leaving William Cecil lord Roos her son and heir. He died in 1618 without issue, having obtained a confirmation of the manor, which afterwards went to his widow, Elizabeth daughter of Sir Thomas Lake and her family. Sir George Rodney purchased it without a licence of Sir Arthur Lake, and having obtained the king's pardon for it, sold it afterwards to William lord Maynard: it is now the property of the right honourable Charles viscount Maynard.

A court-leet and court-baron are held for this manor. The reversion of the manor of Walthamstow Bedyk, or Low Hall, after the death of Maud, widow of Simon Francis, from whom it was also called the manor of Walthamstow Francis, was purchased by Thomas Beauchamp earl of Warwick, who before possessed the other manor. They continued in the same hands till the death of Anne Beauchamp, when Walthamstow Francis fell to the share of Anne, sister of the earl of Warwick, and wife of Richard Neville earl of Salisbury, who enjoyed in her right also the title of earl of Warwick. After the death of this earl, at the battle of Barnet, his estates were all seized by the crown, and John Hugford had the manor granted to him; he died in possession of it in 1485. A lease was granted of it in 1521 for twenty-one years to John Jenyns, as it was then vested in the crown. In 1528 it was granted to John Limsey and his heirs male; and in 1541 to Sir Ralph Sadler in fee. In 1550 Laurence Wennington and Ralph Saunders held it in free socage. It was in 1553 granted to Thomas Argall, whose descendants enjoyed it for several generations. The heiress of this family married John Greene, Esq. of Dover-street, who died in 1718. In 1741 it was purchased of his representatives by Samuel Bosanquet, Esq. father of Samuel Bosanquet the present proprietor.

The manor of Higham Benstead was the property of a freeman named Haldan, in the reign of the Confessor. Peter de Valoines had it at the time Domesday was taken; his grand-daughter, Lora, brought it in marriage to Alexander de Baliol; John de Bensted, a justice of the common pleas and baron of the realm in the reign of Edward III., purchased it of him. It remained in his family till 1494, when it was sold to John Ryshe and others. It being soon after vested in the crown, it was leased to Sir John Heron. The lease reverted to the crown, his son Sir Giles being attainted of high treason, when Henry VIII. leased the manor to Cuthbert Hutton, Esq.: but queen Mary, in July 1554, restored this estate to Thomas Henon, gent., eldest son of Sir Giles. In May 1566 Thomas, Edmund, and Joan, had licence to alienate the

the manor to Thomas Rowe, Esq., afterwards knighted and lord mayor of London in 1568. It continued with the Rowes for seven descents, and was sold in 1758 by William Rowe, gent. to Richard Newman, Esq., who in 1764 aliened it to Anthony Bacon, Esq., representative in parliament for Aylesbury, who built a very handsome brick house in the northern part of this parish near Woodford Wells. The manor was put up to auction in 1785, and purchased by William Hornby, Esq. governor of Bombay, who sold it in 1790 to John Harman, Esq. Courts were formerly held for this manor, and are probably by this time renewed.

Salisbury-hall manor took its name from Mary Plantagenet countess of Salisbury. Sir Thomas Tyrwhitt, who died in April 1522, held of that countess the manor of Salisbury-hall in Walthamstow. Queen Mary granted among other things this manor to Sir Thomas White and others. It reverted to the crown, and was granted by queen Elizabeth in 1590 to Robert Symonds, who died in 1623, and was succeeded by his son Thomas. In 1667 Robert Edge, Esq. possessed it, from whom it descended to James Edge, Esq., who bequeathed it to Richard Sheldon, merchant; upon his decease, without issue, it came to Rice Fellowes, Esq., who, by will in 1761, bequeathed it to his cousin George Dickerdine, who took the name of Rice Fellowes, and in 1778 sold the manor to William Cooke, Esq. His sister, Mrs. Hannah Cooke, then possessed it. In the court-book this manor is styled Walthamstow Sarum, or Salisbury-hall. The manor-house stands about a mile and half from the church to the north, in a lane leading from Clay-street to Chingford. A chapel adjoined to the old mansion, dedicated to St. Edward the Confessor. That part of the parish is still called Chapel-end.

There is a villa belonging to the Pole family here, and several good houses belonging to merchants, and others.

The church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, consists of a body and two aisles: a square tower contains six bells.

This church, as well as the lordship of the place belonging to Ralph de Tony, he gave two parts of the tythes to the abbey of Conches in Normandy, founded by Ralph his father. His wife Alice surviving him, gave the other two parts of the tythes, with this church, in 1108, to the priory of the Holy Trinity of London, who, having purchased of the monks of Conches the other two parts of the tythes, got the whole confirmed to themselves about the year 1200 by the bishop of London, and a vicarage ordained here; of which tythes and rectory, and of the advowson of the vicarage, they

they continued possessed till the dissolution in 1531, when they came to the crown. The rectory, styled and reputed a manor, and the advowson of the vicarage were granted in 1544 by Henry VIII. to Paul and Edmund Withipole and their heirs: they presented to the vicarage till 1576. In 1600 Sir Reginald Argall bought the whole. This estate was afterwards dismembered.

The manor of the rectory came to Richard Cooper, Esq., who gave it to his sister Elizabeth, who left it by will in 1708 to Sir Thomas Fanshawe. In the year 1730 the Fanshaws sold it to John Fell, Esq. merchant, in whose family it continued till 1783, when it was conveyed to William Cooke, Esq. In 1794 it was sold to Stephen Wilson, since a bankrupt.

The great tythes continued in the Argall family till 1663, when they were conveyed to Robert Shipman, Esq. from his wife, who had them by will; they passed to John Mascall in 1667, merchant, whose descendant in 1733 married Ann Afsyll, and they devolved, in consequence of the settlements made by them, to Arthur Afsyll, brother of Anne, whose only daughter and heir married Alexander Marsh, Esq.; and the sole right and disposition of this estate being vested in herself about the year 1785, she bequeathed the great tythes to the Rev. Joseph Cuthbert, who is the present proprietor.

John Argall, Esq., brother of Sir Reginald, sold the advowson of the vicarage to the bishop of Chichester, Henry King; whose son Henry left two daughters coheirs, married to Edmund Wyndham and Isaac Houblon; who sold this advowson in 1690 to John Conyers, Esq. It is now vested in his descendant John Conyers, Esq. of Copt-hall.

The vicarage of Walthamstow is in the diocese of London and deanery of Barking: it is valued at 15*l.* per annum in the king's books. There has been money left for the purchase of lands to improve the vicarage.

About 1740 a meeting-house was established here for protestant dissenters, principally at the expence of Mr. Coward, who placed Hugh Farmer there as minister. A new meeting-house was built about the year 1787. It is larger than the old one, and has a cemetery adjoining. The land-tax of this parish is 40*l.* 14*s.*

W O O D F O R D.

THIS place took its name from the ford in the wood or forest where Woodford bridge now stands. This parish was one of the seventeen lordships with which earl

Harold endowed his abbey of Waltham Holy-crofs, and was confirmed to that monastery with all its lands and appurtenances by Edward the Confessor in 1062. The parish is bounded by Chingford, Chigwell, Wanstead, Walthamstow, and Barking. It contains about 2000 acres of land, the greater part of which are meadow and pasture. A strong loamy soil generally predominates. A considerable part of the forest of Waltham, commonly called Epping Forest, is in this parish.

The manor and church of this parish continued in the abbot and monks till their dissolution in 1540. The manor was originally given by earl Harold to his monastery of Waltham Holy-crofs. It was granted in 1546 to John Lyon. Sir Anthony Brown and his heirs next year had a grant of the manor, which appears not to have been valid; for it appears that Sir John Lyon, alderman of London, to whom the former grant had been made, gave it to king Edward VI. in exchange for other lands. The king granted it immediately to Edward lord Clinton and Say, who in 1553 aliened it to Robert Whetstone. His descendant in 1640 sold it to William Acton, by whom it was conveyed in the same year to Sir Thomas Roe. After his widow's death in 1675 it was disposed of to Sir Benjamin Thorogood, whose son Richard conveyed it to Sir Richard Child, afterwards earl Tylney. It is now the property of the Tylneys.

The manor-house, which adjoins the church, was sold by Sir Richard Child to Christopher Crow, Esq., who in 1727 aliened it to William Hunt, Esq.: it is now the property of his descendant. The custom of the manor is borough English, by which the younger son inherits.

William Hickman, Esq., ancestor of the earl of Plymouth and of Sir N. H. Hickman, Bart., was lord of the manor of Woodhall in Essex, and died at the manor-house there in 1420. Walter Hickman, who died in 1540, ordered his body to be buried at Woodford: he left to his son Clement four of his best ambling mares, his best gown lined with fitches, and his russet gown lined with fox. He left 10*l.* to the church at Woodford, for the purpose of redeeming paschal money at Easter; so that all persons in the parish might say a Pater Noster and Ave Maria for his soul, at God's board, and for all Christian souls.

Buckhurst, alias Monken-hill, and twenty acres called Maggot in this parish and Chigwell, belonged to Stratford abbey. After the suppression they were granted by Edward VI. to John Lyon and his wife. They continued in that family some time.

At Woodford-row is a garden belonging to the Warners, with a labyrinth, adorned with many curiosities.

The manor of Ray-house was part of the possessions of the abbot and convent of Stratford-Langthorne, and was granted in 1541 to Morgan Philips, alias Wolfe, who left it to his son Walter Morgan. By him, in 1570, it was sold to John Pilkington, who aliened to Nicholas Fuller the same year. Thomas Perefson had it from Fuller in 1582. Israel Amyce next had it, and conveyed it over to the earl of Leicester in 1586. Sir Horace Palavicini bought it of the earl, and his youngest son made it over to Sir Charles Montagu in 1624. About the beginning of the eighteenth century, this estate was in the Cleveland family, from whom it passed to that of Hannot. In 1770 it was purchased of Bennet Hannot, Esq. by Sir James Wright, Bart. in whose family it remains.

The parish church, dedicated to St. Margaret, is built of brick, and consists of a chancel, nave, and two aisles. At the west end is a tower of brick, built in 1708. The chancel appears to be of great antiquity. The rectory has always been appendant to and gone with the manor. It is in the diocese of London and in the deanery of Barking. It is valued in the king's books at 11*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.*

Woodford Wells were formerly in great repute, but now are totally neglected; they are situated in the forest, near the nine mile stone. Near the bridge is a patent manufactory of artificial slate. This slate is used for covering roofs of houses, water pipes, &c. A considerable quantity has been exported to the West Indies. The parish is rated at 1850*l.* land-tax.

There are within the circumference of this hundred about 500 acres of marsh land adjoining to the river Thames, and are divided by that river from Kent; which, notwithstanding, belong to the parish of Woolwich, and are rated to pay taxes as part of that parish; it is not easy to account for this circumstance, unless it be that the Thames had altered its course, and run formerly on the north of this marsh-land. Here was once a chapel of ease, of which the foundations are still visible.

HALF HUNDRED OF WALTHAM.

THE river Lea forms the boundary of Waltham on the west, as the hundred of Ongar is on the east, while that of Harlow completes the triangle on the north. The length of the hundred may be about ten miles, and the breadth, taken in an opposite direction, about six. The whole seems formerly to have belonged to the great abbey of Waltham, and after the dissolution, has continually been attached to the

the families of Denny, Hay, Wake, and Jones, who have been since that period proprietors of the site of that house. There was anciently a forest of some extent in this part, and the four parishes of Waltham Holy-crofs, Epping, Nafing, and Chingford, are contained in it.

WALTHAM.

WALTHAM gave name to a part of the forest of Essex; it is twelve miles distant from London, and has a market on Tuesdays, as well as two fairs, on May 14 and September 25.

In the time of king Canute, his standard-bearer Toni, delighted by the number of the deer, established sixty-six of his adherents in some houses which were then first erected here, and thus founded the town of Waltham. From his son Athelstan the property came into the hands of Edward the Confessor, whose brother-in-law Harold founded the monastery. The riches of the monastery were of great advantage to the town; and a miraculous cross, which had been preserved in the first church erected by Toni, gave name to the place, and drew crowds of devotees to the spot. Harold founded a college for a dean and eleven secular canons, in memory of the king, Edith his queen, and the other branches of the family. Harold endowed his college with the lands of Northfield, Alwartune, Lambourn, Loughton, Nethes-well, Nefingan, Passfelde, Tippedene, or Epping, Upminster, and Wodeford, in Essex, besides many other lands in Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, and Berkshire. Maud, the queen of king Henry the first, became also a benefactress to the house. The possessions of the abbey were afterwards much increased by the donation of the manor of Thorendon, by Hugh Nevill. The church of South Weld was presented by John de Chishull bishop of London. The church of All Saints, at Hertford, was given by Robert de Valoines. Shudicamps and Badburgham, in Cambridgeshire, the churches of Old and New Windsor, Wrangle, in Lincolnshire, Leverton, Geist, Norton, in Norfolk, Taterham, in Surry, Epping, and Nafing, Alghamston, Lambourn, Loughton, Nettlewell, Woodford, Wormley, Great Parndon, and Stamford le Hope, were afterwards added to the possessions of the monastery. King Henry the second gave to the monks the manors of Swardtune and Epping, Waltham-hall, in Takeley, Stansted, Thele, and the house of Walter de Geldeford, as also the tithes of Purlai and the lands of Dunton. Suc-

ceeding

ceeding kings added fresh gifts and ample confirmations to the abbey. Richard I. gave all the manor of Waltham, Harold's Park, and 300 acres of land, and the market of the town, to the abbey, which now became proprietary of the half hundred, paying only 60*l.* annually to the exchequer. Theydon Boys, and the manor of Katherines in Great Parndon, Waterman's manor in Matching, a farm in Sheering, the manor of Abbots in Stanway, the manors and rectories of Wormingford, Blakemore, Margareting, Priors in Bromfield, and Little Badow, soon after increased the revenues of the house. It was also possessed of the manor of Little Amwell and the rectory of Hornead, and of Shingle-hall and Copped-hall, New-hall, the manor of Cullings, and lands in Willingale Cavelands, with rents in some parishes in London.

The two fairs appear to have been instituted in consequence of a grant from king Edward III. The abbey was subject to the jurisdiction of the pope and the king, being the twentieth in the rank of religious houses in England, and sending its mitred abbot among the twenty-eight of that description who sat in parliament.

The abbey was possessed of a revenue of 1079*l.* at the time of the dissolution, an enormous sum at that period. The church of the abbey has undergone some changes, and, like most others, has the tower at the western end, instead of the centre, where it formerly stood. The founder, king Harold, with his brothers Gyrth and Leofwine, were buried in this edifice; and being discovered in the time of queen Elizabeth, we are assured that the stone coffin, in which the bones of the king were deposited, was found, containing the bones, then entire, but which were soon reduced to dust by the admission of the air. Over the grave was a marble slab, ornamented with a cross. Roger de Waltham, distinguished as a writer, was born at this place in the fourteenth century, and John de Waltham, who was lord privy seal to king Richard II. Thomas Fuller, D.D. the celebrated author of the *Worthies of England*, was minister of this parish.

At a short distance westward from the abbey of Waltham is the village called Waltham-crofs, in Hertfordshire, now much increased by the resort of travellers to the inns, which have been established upon the great road passing through it. The cross, which was erected by Edward I. in memory of his queen Eleanor, gave name to the place, and is of such beautiful workmanship, that to neglect the mention of it would be unpardonable. The Society of Antiquaries have given accurate and beautiful plans and drawings of this elegant specimen of the Gothic ornamental architecture of the time. It is

is to be lamented that so interesting a relic should be so situated that it is liable to suffer more from accidental injuries than from time. It is now at the corner of an inn on the great road, and some of its statues are mutilated and its columns thrown down.

There was formerly a manor called Dacies, alias Crofsbrooks, at Waltham-crofs. There is an hospital for four poor widows, and a workhouse for the parish of Cheshunt, in the village.

The parish of Waltham Holy-crofs, in Waltham Abbey, is very large, and comprehends four hamlets that are manors, Seywardston, Roydon, Upshire, and Hallifield. Most of these were centred in Sir Anthony Denny, in 1540. In 1547 Edward VI. increased the grant. Roydon stands on an eminence, and bounds the prospect, which part of Hertfordshire enjoys. In 1742 John Gibson possessed it.

The manor of Upshire and Hallifield continued in the crown till 1571, after the suppression of the abbey; when Elizabeth granted it to Richard Hill and William James. Lately Hallifield-hall has been in the hands of the Collard family. The manor of Seywardston was purchased of the earl of Bedford in 1674, and then came to — Southerby, Esq. There are ruins of an old church.

The church of the abbey was dedicated at first to the Holy Crofs, pretended to have been brought here, and afterwards to St. Laurence. It is a Gothic edifice, larger than neat; to the south side is a chapel. In the middle stood the tower, after the manner of a cathedral; but part of it falling down, a wall was run up at the east end, and a handsome tower built at the west. This was done in 1558. The advowson of the living is in the owner of the site of the abbey. In the eastern extremity of the parish, near Copped-hall, is a fine old camp, enclosing eleven acres, and here was probably fought the famous battle between Boadicea and the Romans. Waltham with its hamlets is thus rated to the land-tax: Waltham Abbey 1870*l.* Seywardston 1772*l.* 2*s.* Roydon 752*l.* Upshire 1756*l.* 2*s.* Hallifield 1677*l.* 1*s.*

CHINGFORD.

THIS is the most southern angle of the half hundred, and takes its name from a ford, which was in the Saxon called the King's, or Kings-ford. It lies in the hundred of Waltham, about nine miles distant from Shoreditch church, and near ten miles from Whitechapel. The parish is bounded by Chigwell and Loughton on the east; Woodford on the south-east; Waltham Abbey on the north; and on

the west, south-west, and north-west, by the river Lea, which divides it from Tottenham, Enfield, and Edmonton, in Middlesex. It contains about 2100 acres of land, of which about 550 are arable; 1330 are grafs, and 220 wood. The foil is chiefly of clay.

The chief manor of this parish was given by Edward the Confessor to the cathedral church of St. Paul; besides which there was another manor, belonging to a freeman, which was held at the time of the survey by Robert Gernon. Hence arose two capital manors in this parish, one called Chingford St. Paul's, the other Chingford Comitis. From this last was taken another, named Gowers and Buckrells. In this parish are also Merry-mount, Low-street, Warren-house, and Chingford-green.

Chingford St. Paul's lies near the river Lea, a mile south-west of the church. It has a court baron and court leet. This manor was in the possession of the dean and chapter of St. Paul until the Reformation, when Henry VIII. took it from them. In 1551 Edward VI. granted it to Sir Thomas Darcy, with the advowson of the church, who surrendered it to the crown again next year. In 1553 queen Mary granted it to Thomas Tonge's widow. Her nephew, Humphry White, sold it in 1566 to Joan Lee, widow, whose descendant Edward Lee, or Leigh, in 1709, alienated it to Robert Snell, Esq. barrister at law, whose nephew John Snell, Esq. of Brill, in Buckinghamshire, had it last. The manor is exempt from the forest laws, and enjoys the privileges of the dean and chapter of St. Paul. Chingford-hall, the manor-house, is situated south-west of the church, on the borders of the marsh.

The manor of Chingford Comitis was, when the survey of Domesday was taken, held by Orgar the thane, under Robert Gernon. It was so called from the noble earls to which it belonged. The mansion-house stands about a mile east of the church, at a place called Friday-hill.

About the year 1188 it became the property of Fulbert de Dover lord Chilham, in Kent. In the reign of Henry II. Roese only daughter and heir of Richard de Dover, great-grandson of Fulbert, married Richard natural son of king John, by whom she had two daughters coheirs. David Strathbolgie, earl of Athol, marrying Isabel the second daughter, came into possession of this estate: his son and successor was executed for his adherence to Robert de Brus. His estates were forfeited to the crown, and the manor granted to Ralph de Monthermer earl of Gloucester. David,
son

son of the earl of Athol, compounded with the earl of Gloucester for this estate, and had a son of his own name. Giles de Badlesmere died in possession of this manor in 1338. His eldest sister and coheir, Margery, brought it in marriage to William lord Roos. On the attainder of Thomas lord Roos, in 1461, Edward IV. gave the manor of Chingford to Thomas Colte and his heirs male; and then in fee to Henry Bouchier earl of Essex; who died seised of it in 1483. About 1490 it was restored to the Roos family, in which it continued till 1542, when Thomas earl of Rutland exchanged it with Henry VIII. for other lands. In 1553 it was granted to Susan Tonge, widow, whose nephew in 1571 aliened it to William Jeffreyson, by whom it was made over to John Branch, who died seised of it in 1585. Mary, one of his sisters and coheirs, brought this estate in marriage to William Udall, whose son Henry sold it to Launcelot Bathurst. The Bathursts sold it in 1666 to Thomas Boothby, in whose family it continued till 1774, when, after the death of Robert Boothby, it was inherited under his will by his sister of the half blood, Lydia daughter of Benjamin Moyer, Esq. and wife of the late John Heathcote, Esq. M. P. for the county of Rutland.

About a mile east from the church is an old mansion-house, called Friday-hill, which has long been the manor residence, and for many years the seat of the Boothby family. The ancient site of this manor was probably at the house where the courts are held in the forest. It is called queen Elizabeth's Lodge.

The manor of Gowers and Buckerells, now called Pimps, was supposed formerly to have been the property of Alexander Bayloll, who in the reign of Edward I. held lands at Chingford. In 1544 Henry VIII. granted the manor and capital messuage to Geoffrey Lukyn. Rowland Rampston had it immediately of him, whose grandson sold it in 1593 to John Hare. In 1598 Nicholas Hare, son of the last possessor, sold it to Nicholas Barnsley, whose daughter and coheir married Thomas Nodes, and had this manor as a part of her portion. In 1631 Nodes sold it to Thomas Gundry, Esq. whose descendant in 1729 sold it to Israel Hammond, Esq.

The parish church is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, and is a small building of flint and stone, almost overgrown with ivy on the east and south sides. It consists of a nave, chancel, and south aisle. A low square tower is at the west end.

Chingford is a rectory, in the diocese of London and deanery of Barking; the advowson has been always annexed to the manor of Chingford Comitis; except

for a very short period, when, with the other manor, it was granted to Sir Thomas D'Arcy: the rectory is valued in the king's books at 14*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.*

In this parish is an estate called Brindwoods, held under the rectory by the following remarkable tenure: upon every alienation the owner of the estate, with his wife, man and maid servant, each on a horse, singly, come to the parsonage, where the owner does homage, and pays his relief in the following manner: he blows three blasts with his horn, and carries a hawk on his hand; his servant also accompanies him with a greyhound in a slip, both of them for the use of the rector for the day. He receives a chicken for his hawk, a peck of oats for his horse, and a loaf of bread for his greyhound. They all dine; after which the master blows three blasts with his horn, and they take their departure. There is a Sunday-school and day-school here, supported by the contribution of the parish. It is rated to the land-tax at 1744*l.*

N A S I N G.

NASING comprises the north-west corner of this half hundred. The Saxon word nase signifies a nose or promontory, and the latter part a pasture or meadow. This was one of the estates with which Harold endowed his abbey of Waltham. In 1547 Edward VI. granted the manor of Nasing, with the rectory and tithes, to Ralph Sadleir, Esq. after they had continued in the possession of the abbey till the suppression. Sir Ralph Sadleir granted them to Sir Anthony Denny; they then descended to Charles Wake Jones, Esq. The advowson of the vicarage was not granted away, but has remained in the crown ever since the dissolution. Only in 1688 Samuel Jones, Esq. presented it during the unsettled state of affairs. The manor-house lies about a mile west of the church, near the meadows. Harold's Park stands in Waltham Abbey. In 1547 Edward VI. by way of exchange with John Dudley earl of Warwick, gave him Harold's Park, which Sir Anthony Denny obtained. In 1600 queen Elizabeth confirmed the title to the family. Richard Bateman next possessed it, his father Sir James Bateman having purchased it of Mr. Chauncy. There are in the parish Nasing-lodge, Long-green, and Brodley-common. The abbot of Waltham had a park here in 1225.

The church, which is dedicated to All Saints, stands on a hill, and is a large and stately edifice, from whence there is a most delightful prospect. At the west end is a tower. King Henry II. granted or confirmed this church, with all its appurtenances,

tenances, to Waltham abbey. The monks continued patrons till the dissolution, when it came to the crown.

The vicarage is augmented with queen Anne's bounty and other benefactions. The parish is rated to the land-tax at 2525/.

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E P P I N G.

EPPING is divided into two parts, Upland and Townside; in the former the church is situated, in the latter the town is built: the street of Epping is of a more modern date than the church. The lands in this parish are entered in Domesday-book under two different hundreds: the one part under the hundred of Harlow, the other under the hundred of Waltham. Those lands were afterwards divided into the following manors; the manor of Epping-bury, and Epping-prefbyter, Copped-hall, Shingle-hall, the manor of Chambers, Gills Campions, Madeleys, Hayles; Epping-long-green is also within this parish; Copped-hall-green, Ryfe-street, Lynset-street, Epping-place, and Gregory's.

The manor-house, called Epping-bury, lies in a bottom by the side of the road, near a mile from the church. This was part of the possessions with which Harold endowed the convent of Waltham. When Henry II. converted this house into an abbey for regulars, he granted Epping to them with all its appurtenances. This lordship, however, being confirmed to the abbot and monks of Waltham Holy-crofs, continued in their possession till the suppression of monasteries. During the remainder of Henry VIII.'s reign it continued in the crown, as also during the reigns of Edward VI. and queen Mary, and part of Elizabeth's.

In 1558 queen Mary annexed this manor and that of Copped-hall, among others, to the dutchy of Lancafter. In 1572 Elizabeth granted the manor of Epping, and appurtenances, to Thomas Heneage and Anne his wife, in fee tail; he dying, his only daughter, married to Sir Moyle Finch, of Eastwell, in Kent, became possessed of it. In 1635 their heirs sold it to William lord Grey. Till 1734 it continued in the Grey family, when it was sold, together with Copped-hall, to Edward Conyers, Esq. of Walthamstow. At the forest court, in 1670, under Waltham-abbey, William lord Grey brought in a very large claim for this manor of Epping, for many privileges, courts, &c. as were formerly granted to the abbey; also that a market every week should be allowed, as first granted by Henry III. in 1253, and two fairs, one on the Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday in Whitsun-week, the  
other



other the last day of October, and the two first of November. Lord North and Grey obtained a grant for two markets, one on Tuesdays, and the other on Fridays. The first is not used.

The manor was originally divided into two—Epping-bury and Epping-presbyter. The latter holds a court-leet under a maple-tree in the road between Epping-bury and the church. They both belong to the same lord, who is lord paramount of all the rest.

Copped-hall lies about two miles south-west of Epping church. It takes its name from a Saxon word, which signifies the top of a hill, as it stands upon a high or copped ground.

The old house was a noble mansion, very large, having a court in the middle; it stood a little more to the south, and within the bounds of Waltham parish, than the new one which is in Epping parish, as was determined at trial in 1671. The new house was built in 1753 in a most elegant manner by John Conyers, Esq. The estate appears originally to have been part of the demesnes of Waltham-abbey. King Richard I. gave it to Richard Fitz-Aucher, who built a stately mansion, and resided here. It continued in this family till about the middle of the fourteenth century, when it passed over into the family of Shardelowe. Sir John de Shardelowe was possessed of it in Edward III.'s reign in 1350; he procured a licence for himself and wife to make an exchange of the manors of Copped-hall and Shingle-hall, with the abbot of Waltham, for the manors of Boreham in Essex, and Campes and Orsythe in Cambridgeshire. In 1374 the abbot had leave to enclose 120 acres of his demesnes, and to enlarge his parks of Harold's-park and Copped-hall.

The manor and estate remained in the abbey till the reign of Henry VIII. It was then purchased for the king by Thomas Cromwell; or, as some say, the last abbot made over the estate to the king, in the hopes of preserving his other revenues. Queen Mary annexed this manor to the dutchy of Lancaster. In 1564 queen Elizabeth granted the park and messuage of Copped-hall to Sir Thomas Heneage and Anne his wife. He died seised of it in 1595. From him it went to his daughter Elizabeth, married to Sir Moyle Finch, afterwards created viscountess Maidstone and countess of Winchelsea. Her son Thomas earl of Winchelsea sold it to Lionel Cranfield earl of Middlesex, lord-high-treasurer in 1622. He dying in 1645 left James his son and heir, who dying in 1651 without issue, as also his brother who succeeded him, the estate came to their nephew Charles Sackville lord Buckhurst, eldest son



son and heir of Richard Sackville earl of Dorset, by Frances his wife, only daughter and sole heiress of Lionel Cranfield earl of Middlesex. He was created earl of Middlesex in 1675, and on his father's death became earl of Dorset in 1677. In 1700 his lordship sold this estate to Thomas Webster, Esq., created a baronet in 1703: Sir Thomas Webster afterwards sold it to Edward Conyers, Esq. of Walthamstow, in whose family it still continues.

The manor of Shingle-hall stands near or upon Epping-green, about three quarters of a mile from Epping church to the north-east. This, with the manor of Copped-hall, both belonged to the Shardelowe family, and were exchanged by Sir John Shardelowe, with the abbot and convent of Waltham, for the manor of Boreham and others in 1350. Henry Fitz-Aucher held this manor in 1304 of the abbot. It remained in the abbey till the dissolution, when it was farmed by John Denton. In 1552 Edward VI. granted the manor of Shingle-hall to Henry lord Morley and his heirs; and in 1562 that lord and Elizabeth his wife had licence to alienate it to John Benton, who died in possession of it in 1570. It was purchased of the Bentons by Richard Day, gent., who left it to his grandson in 1741, Sir Richard Day Jenoure, Bart.: upon his death in 1744 it became his mother's property. One of the Bentons claimed here a court-baron and its rights by prescription.

The mansion-house of the manor of Chambers is delightfully situated on rising ground, about half a mile south-west of the church. It is supposed to have taken its name from some owner. It appears to have been an ancient lodge. In 1410 Edmund de Chambre of Epping held some land of the abbot of Waltham. In 1422 and 1430 Thomas, brother of Edmund, gave up all his rights here to Thomas Tyrell, Thomas Lyes, clerk, and others; and so did John Chambre, Esq. in 1430 to John Randolph, clerk.

It next came into the Skrene family by marriage. In 1518 Richard Harper, Esq. held this manor of the abbot of Waltham, by rent and fealty of a red rose. John Halmer had it in 1536 of the king as of his abbey of Waltham. In 1557 Henry Halmer passed it to Robert Whorewood. It afterwards was sold to — Blackwell, Esq.; and from his family it came to the Searles.

The manor-house of Giles stands about half a mile south of Chambers. In 1556 this estate passed by fine to Anthony Browne, justice of the common pleas, from Thomas Hale, gent. In 1603 Richard Raynsford, Esq. held this manor. In 1621 Thomas Palmer, Esq. possessed the estate. It afterwards went into the Searle family.



Campions manor formerly also belonged to the Searle family, and before that time, in 1635, to Thomas Wynch. In 1748 William Ester, Esq. died possessed of it, and from him it went to his heirs.

The small manor of Madelys or Marles is held of the manor of Epping, and consists of two farms. The manor-house is a short way distant from Shingle-hall. It belonged to the family of Wells, the lords of some neighbouring manors. Adam de Wells held it in 1345, at the time of his death, of the earl of Oxford, by the service of keeping one spar-hawk for the earl. It continued with them till 1507. In 1534 Sir William Fitzwilliams, of Milton in Northamptonshire, died in possession of this manor. His son and heir, William, in 1553, passed it over by fine to John Green, who died seised of it 1624. The estate afterwards came to — Rawlins, Esq., of whom it was purchased by Mr. Blake, of London, merchant.

The manor of Rye-hill, or Rise-hill, bordering on Little Parndon, lies in this parish, though in Domesday-book it is placed under Harlow hundred. It belonged, at the time of the Confessor's reign, to Ansgar, and in the time of the survey to Alan earl of Brittany. The hamlet consists of only a few straggling houses, or small farms or cottages. Part of this estate has been called the manor of Hayles. Nicholas Wychingham, Esq. had lands here in 1433. In 1496 Joan Biddleston, widow, had this manor of Hayles. In 1570 John Smith, Esq. of Epping, had it. In 1593 Sir William Rowe, at the time of his death, possessed it. It was afterwards the property of Mr. Searle, of whom Isaac Foster, alderman of London, purchased it. There are a few charitable donations to the parish.

The church, which is dedicated to All Saints, is of one flat length: it has a tower of flint and stone, and stands pleasantly on a rising ground. In 1722 the church was thoroughly repaired and beautified: the body is paved with Purbeck stone; the chancel, without the rails, with Portland stone; and within the rails, with white marble, and wainscotted with Norway oak. It is singular that the communion-table is placed at some distance from the wall, with a rail quite round it: it is supposed to have been done so by a vicar. The canons of Waltham had the tithes from Adeliza, second queen of Henry I.

In 1548 the rectory was, with its appurtenances, in Thomas Cornwall, who alienated it to Francis Monox, Esq. and heirs: but in 1570 queen Elizabeth had it again; it was then granted to Sir Thomas Heneage, and from him passed to the families of Finch, Grey, and Conyers. The first institution to it as a vicarage was



in 1545. Before 1540 the abbot and monks of Waltham were sole proprietors of it.

In the town of Epping, about a mile and a half from the church, stands a chapel dedicated to St. John the Baptist. John Peryent had a grant of it from the abbot and monks; he presented a chaplain to it in 1540 as a free chapel without cure. In 1550 Edward VI. granted it to John Cocks, Esq. In 1552 Cocks conveyed it to Henry Archer and his heirs. In 1573 the chapel was settled in trustees for public use, and the trust has from different times been renewed. In 1622 a new aisle was added to the chapel, and another in 1662. Epping is rated to the land-tax at 3520*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.*

### H A V E R I N G.

HAVERING liberty is bounded on the west by the half hundred of Becontree, on the north by part of Ongar, on the east by Chafford hundred, and on the south by the river Thames. It is separated from Chafford hundred by a rivulet, whose springs are about South Weald or Navestocke, and its course by Rainham to the Thames at Wenington. This liberty is nine miles long from north to south, and four miles and a half in its greatest width from east to west; but near the Thames it is not more than three quarters of a mile wide. It was a member of Becontree hundred about the time of the Conqueror; in the time of the Saxons it was an ancient demesne, and being one of the royal palaces, was made a liberty distinct from the hundred, having a court with power of life or death. The reason of this was, because, it being a feat of the kings of England, the cognizance of crimes within the verge of their court was here taken; or else it was a privilege belonging to the royal palaces.

The name of Havering is derived from two Saxon words, which signify a goat and pasture: there is a legendary tale of St. John the Evangelist, under disguise of an old beggar, begging alms of Edward the Confessor, who, having nothing else about him, gave him his ring. St. John some years after sent this ring back to the king by two English pilgrims, with the information that he should die within six months. They delivered the message and ring to him here at his bower, whence the place was called Havering. Havering is divided into the following manors: Havering at Bower,



Pirgo, Dagenhams, Cockerills, Goseys, Uphavering or Gobions, Reeden or Ridden Court, the manor of Romford or Mannys, East-house, Bedfords and Geddynghall, Stewards, and Marks; these all lie to the north: the following are on the south: Nelmes, Lees Gardens, Maylerds, Bretons, Suttons, and Dovers. The name of Hornchurch does not seem to have been used here till about the reign of Henry III.

The manor of Havering-bower was a place of retirement of our ancient Saxon kings; particularly of Edward the Confessor, who delighted in its solitary woods as a place suited for his devotions. The legend says, that it was filled with nightingales and other harmonious birds, who disturbed his prayers so much that he implored the Deity to remove them; since which period the credulous countrymen imagine that a nightingale has never been heard. It is a most delightful spot, presenting a beautiful prospect of the greater part of Essex, Kent, Middlesex, Hertfordshire, and Surry; with a view of the Thames. It was here that the Confessor either built a palace, or repaired the old one: it was of free-stone, and covered with lead; some parts of the walls are still remaining. The chapel, which is the only one in the place, stands near it, and is dedicated to St. John the Evangelist. There was also another palace at Pirgo, which belonged to the queens of England. Havering was generally a part of the queen's jointure.

Eleanor, queen of Edward the First, enjoyed it, and there was with it a beautiful park. Anne, queen of Richard II., had also this manor. In 1166 William Hurel held land in Havering by the serjeantcy of keeping the park; and John de Ruyme in 1210; but the keeping of the park in general went along with the forestership of Essex. Richard de Montfichet had both, through nearly the whole reign of Henry III. Thomas de Clare, second son of Richard earl of Gloucester, purchased it of him; and it thence passed to the Veres earls of Oxford. But Thomas de Clare was deprived of it for a trespass of one of his park-keepers; and Henry Fitz-Aucher had it, who was ordered by Henry III. to suffer a keeper of the park to have the tops of the trees there felled, as his ancestors had before him in the reign of king John. In 1307 Gilbert, son and heir of Thomas de Clare, petitioned parliament for it; but with what success is not known. Till 1483 the keeping of the park was given to different persons.

Havering park contained a thousand acres. The lands are still in the crown, but let on lease. Charles II. leased part to the duke of Grafton. A South-sea director had



had it next; and upon the director's forfeiture in 1721, this part coming to the South-sea company, they sold it to Richard Ladbroke, Esq. Part of this is in the parish of Stapleford Abbots; the other part was leased by Charles II. to the earl of Lindsey, and afterwards enjoyed by his son the duke of Ancaster.

Pirgo is situated near the Bower: the word appears to be derived from park; perhaps it was park-gate: and here may have been a gate which gave name to the place before the house was erected. This house was built in early times. It was standing in 1226, in Henry III.'s reign. In 1559 queen Elizabeth granted to Sir John Grey the capital messuage of Pirgo, and the house called Piggs annexed thereto. Sir John Grey was the second son of the marquis of Dorset. He died in 1564, possessed of this estate and the whole park. In 1614 his youngest son, who had been created baron Grey of Groby, died, having previously sold the estate to Sir Thomas Cheke, Knight. It continued in the Cheke family till 1707, when Edward Cheke, Esq. dying without surviving issue, it devolved to Anne his sister, relict of Sir Thomas Tipping, Bart. of Wheatfield in Oxfordshire. She died in 1727, and leaving only two daughters, this estate, upon a partition, fell to the lot of the youngest, Catherine, married to Thomas Archer, Esq. of Warwickshire. He was created a baron in 1747. This seat has a small chapel.

The manor of Elms, commonly called Nelmes, lies to the south-east of Romford, bordering on Chafford hundred. Nothing of an earlier date than 1549 is much known, when Sir William Roche held the manor. Robert Harvey, who died in 1608, held the same. In 1627 Robert Naunton, Esq. was lord of the manor; but soon after it appears to have been dismembered. It lately belonged to the family of Sir Thomas Webster, of Battle-abbey, in Suffex.

The manor of Romford: this is a market-town, which lies on the great Essex road, twelve miles from Whitechapel. Its Saxon name signifies a wide ford. Its extent is not easy to be ascertained; it was formerly one of the wards of Hornchurch, but is now a separate parish, consisting of four wards, called Romford-town, Collier's-row, Harold's-wood, and Noke-hill. The parish is bounded by Dagenham, Hornchurch, South Weald, and Havering. The land is for the most part arable; the soil various, but chiefly gravel.

As early as 1247 this town had a grant of a market on Wednesdays: this is the general market: there is also one for calves on Monday; and on Tuesdays for hogs.



In 1768 the market-house and court-house were repaired at the expence of the crown. On Midsummer-day there is an annual fair.

The parishes of Hornchurch, Romford, and Havering, being originally one, form a district called the liberty of Havering-atte-bower: the quarter-sessions of this are held at Romford. Commissions also for trying felons may be procured by paying a small sum to the crown; but no commission of this kind has of late been applied for. All the manors belonging to this parish are held of the king, as of his manor of Havering-atte-bower.

Some have imagined that the road to Colchester this way is not of long standing, and that travellers formerly went by way of Ongar, Hornchurch, and Greenlanes; but from accurate observations made by eminent antiquaries, it has been ascertained that the way was through Ilford, &c. The town of Romford is the greatest thoroughfare in Essex, from the eastern parts of this county and of Suffolk and Norfolk to London.

The manor of Romford is first mentioned in a record of the year 1299, when it was held of Adam de Cretinge, by Henry de Winchester, a Jew convert. In 1372 Sir Walter de Manny had the manor in right of his wife Margaret, daughter and coheir of Thomas Brotherton earl of Norfolk, and widow of John lord Seagrave. Elizabeth, daughter of Margaret's first husband, and wife of John de Mowbray, inherited it next, whose son Thomas duke of Norfolk died in possession of it in 1400. John fourth duke of Norfolk of this family dying without male issue in 1477, his estates were divided amongst his coheirs; and the manor of Romford, alias Mawneys, became the property of James lord Berkeley, whose son William marquis of Berkeley sold it in 1487 to the bishop of Lincoln. Robert Dacre died seised of it in 1544; his son George Dacre in 1573 conveyed it to John Lennard and his heirs. Francis Fuller had it next, and from him it went to the Osbastons; and by the intermarriage of an heiress of that family came to James Milner, Esq.; his devisee sold it in 1759 to Richard Newman, Esq., grandfather of Richard Newman, the present proprietor.

The manor of Gedy-hall formerly belonged to the church of Westminster. Sir Thomas Coke, alderman and lord mayor of London, possessed it in the reign of Edward IV.; he died seised of it in 1478. From him it descended to Sir Edward Coke, Knight, who died in 1625, leaving two coheiresses, Anne, wife of Sir Edward Sydenham, and Vere, wife of Sir Charles Gawdy. They with others conveyed the



the manor in 1657 to Richard Eames, who in 1664 sold it to John Burch, Esq. Mr. Burch left it by will, after the death of his wife, to his sister Rebecca Hotherfall, whose grandson Thomas, by will, caused it to be sold. In 1710, by a decree in chancery, it was sold, and purchased by Benjamin Hawkins Styles and John Hunter; then Sir Francis Eyles, of a Wiltshire family, and baronet, came to it; and in 1745 sold it to Richard Benyon, Esq., governor of Fort St. George in the East Indies, whose son Richard Benyon, Esq. M. P. next possessed it. Sir John Eyles rebuilt the house, and greatly improved the place by planting, making canals, and adding other ornaments: it was originally an old mansion, built in the time of Sir Thomas Coke in 1467. Queen Elizabeth had been entertained there during her progress in 1568. The manor is of considerable extent. About a mile from Romford is Harehall, late the seat of John Wallenger, Esq.: it was built in the year 1769.

The manor of Marks in Romford town-ward was formerly the property of Thomas Urswick, recorder of London, who died seised of it in 1479, leaving five daughters coheiresses. Sir George Harvey, lieutenant of the tower of London, died in possession of it in 1605. Sir Gawen Harvey, his only surviving son, left it to Carew Mildmay, Esq., second son of his sister Margaret. Sir Harry Pawlett St. John Mildmay, Bart., in right of his wife Jane, next possessed it: she was daughter and coheiress of Carew Mildmay, Esq., of Shawford; whose name, in consequence of that alliance, he assumed in addition to St. John.

The manor-house is about two miles west of Romford. It is a very old building of timber and plaster, forming a quadrangle. It is surrounded by a moat, at two corners of which are square towers embattled. The house is uninhabited, and only a few family pictures remain.

The manor of Stewards was the property of Marcellinus Halys, Esq., who died in 1561; till which time little or nothing is known relative to this estate. In 1565 William Cade, Esq. had it from Thomas Halys; Ifcah Cade, his wife, aliened it in 1588 to James Quarles, Esq. James, the eldest son of Sir Robert Quarles, eldest son of James above mentioned, had a daughter married to William Holgate, Esq. Their son William in 1708 conveyed the manor to John Wood, Esq., who died in 1761, having left it to William Gill, Esq. and John Leach, Esq. Mr. Gill possessed one moiety, and John, son of John Leach, the other. About 250 acres of land have passed with this manor.

Sir Thomas Coke died seised of the manor of Bedfords and Earles, otherwise  
Nearles,



Nearles, in Harold's-wood ward, in 1478. From him they descended to Sir Edward Coke, who died in 1625. His daughters and coheireffes disposed of them to Richard Emes, citizen and cooper, in 1657, for the sum of 9000*l*. Mr. Emes conveyed them to Joachim Matthews, Esq. in 1659, who died the same year. Sir Philip Matthews, Bart., his son, sold the manors in 1668 to Simon Rogers, merchant, who sold them to Robert Woolley in 1678. In 1706 John Woolley sold them to Robert Bristow, Esq.; and in 1710 the trustees under Mr. Bristow's will conveyed them to Wight Woolley, merchant; whose son, Houlton Woolley, dying in 1752, bequeathed them to his cousin Nathaniel Houlton, of London, merchant; they were then purchased by John Heaton, Esq., in 1771.

The manor of East-house, in Collier's-row ward, formerly belonged to the Cokes. Sir Thomas Coke had it in 1478. The Osbastons had it in the early part of the last century, from whom it came to the Mildmays.

The manor of Uphavering, or Gobions, was part of the possessions of Thomas Urswick, recorder of London, who died in 1479. In 1549 Sir William Roche died in possession of it. In 1555 Thomas Leggatt, Esq. had it. In 1636 it was the property of Sir Richard Minshaw. Joachim Matthews next possessed it, whose son Sir Philip sold it to William Curwen. John Curwen, his son, made it over to Sir Philip Hall. William Perkins next came into the possession of it.

The manor of Reden-court, in Harold's-wood ward, was held under the manor of Havering, by the service of finding litter for the king's chamber. In 1422 Joan Swinnerton, sister and heir of Thomas Newenton, died in possession of it; Sir Thomas Coke, in 1478; and for a long period it continued in the Coke family. John Hopkins, Esq., in the early part of the last century, came into possession of it by purchase. He died in 1732, and left it to his nephew John Hopkins, who, in 1771, bequeathed it to John Dare, Esq., whose widow, the wife of John Marmaduke Grafton, Esq., next possessed it. Her son John Dare, Esq. had the remainder.

The manor of Goseys, in Harold's-wood ward, was formerly the property of John de Dover, who in 1334 died in possession of a messuage and various lands in Gofaye, in whose family it continued for some time. In 1445 John Chatterton died seized of it; Alured Cornbury, in 1486; in 1555, Thomas Leggatt, Esq.; Thomas Moreton, in 1591; Richard Humble, in 1616. Elizabeth daughter of Richard Humble married Richard Ward, and, her brother dying without issue, succeeded to the estate. Sir Humble Ward, in 1644, was created a baron, and married the niece  
and



and heir of lord Dudley. His son Edward lord Dudley and Ward rebuilt the manor of Goseys, and sold the estate afterwards to the Meade family. In 1750 Sir Nathaniel Meade disposed of it to William Sheldon, Esq.

The manor of Dagenhams and Cockerills, in Nokehill ward, lie near South Weald, at the end of the parish. Henry Percy earl of Northumberland died seised of them in 1454; Sir William Hufee, in 1495; Peter Christmas, in 1517; and Thomas Leggatt, Esq. in 1555. In 1637 Lawrence Wright, M. D. had a charter for disforesting the manor of Dagenhams. His son Henry was created a baronet in 1658, by Oliver Cromwell, and by Charles II. in 1660. Henry his only son succeeded him, but died in 1681, at the age of nineteen, his sister being left his sole heir. She first married Edmund Pye, Esq., son and heir of Sir Robert Pye, of Berkshire, and afterwards William Ryder, Esq. As she had the sole disposal of her own estates, and her children were well provided for, she left those manors to her friend and relation Edward Carteret, Esq. postmaster general. In 1749 Mr. Carteret's daughters and coheirs, Anne, relict of Admiral Cavendish, and Bridget Carteret, sold them to Henry Muilman, Esq., who in 1772 conveyed them to Richard Neave, Esq., now Sir Richard Neave, Bart. The estate is an ancient demesne. Sir Richard pulled down the old house, which had been built by Sir Henry Wright, and repaired and altered by Mr. Carteret, and has erected a large and elegant mansion on a new site. Cockerills is now a farm-house, adjoining to the park.

The manor of Lees Gardens is south of Nelmes, and about two miles east of Romford. Marcellinus Halys, Esq. held this manor, with appurtenances, in 1561. In 1604 Thomas Hone, of Gardens, died. Lord St. John afterwards possessed it; and Mr. Fisher was the owner of it in 1720. George Lewis had a moiety in it for life. The other moiety was in John Hopkins, Esq. alias Probyn. In 1746 Counsellor Probyn sold it to Mr. Dawson, of the ordnance office.

The manor of Maylerds probably took its name from the owner, and stands near Hornchurch, about two miles south of Romford. The manor of Wybridges has gone with it a considerable time. They once belonged to Sir Anthony Browne, then to Robert Charnock, Esq. and William Fawkner. They were afterwards divided; for Sir William Ayloffe, Knt. and Bart. had the manor of Weybridges in 1627, and Mr. Edward Thorowgood paid quit-rent for it in 1659. In the same year also, James Rushout, Esq. had it; he was created a baronet in 1661. He died in 1711



without children, and his sister became his heir; she married Paulett St. John, Esq., of Hampshire, and dying without issue, he sold the estate to John Bamber, Esq. M. D. and from him they descended to Bamber Gascoigne, Esq.

The manor of Bretons is south of Maylerds, bordering on the parish of Dagenham, about two miles and a half from Romford. It derived the name of Bretons from an ancient family named Le Breton, which had estates in this county in 1260 and 1310. In the reign of Edward IV. it belonged to the family of Scargwell, or Scargill, one of whom was appointed keeper of Havering park. In Henry VII.'s reign it was bought of him by William Ayloffe, Esq. One of his descendants, Sir Benjamin Ayloffe, being obliged to sell the estate, it was purchased by John Winniffe, Esq. It afterwards belonged to John Austen, Esq., alderman of London; then to William Blackburn, Esq.; and afterwards to John Hopkins, Esq., who rebuilt the house.

The manor of Suttons lies about three miles south-south-east of Romford, adjoining to Bretons. It is a part of the estate of New College, Oxford, which they had with the rest of the lands of Hornchurch hospital. The name comes from its southern situation with respect perhaps to Hornchurch-hall. The college becoming possessed of this manor, with their other estates in the parish, have enjoyed it from that time; they let it out upon lease. Sutton-gate, a seat adjoining, has for many years been the seat of the Prujean family.

The manor of Dovers is the most southern part of the liberty of Havering, adjoining the marshes, and about four miles from Romford. It is separated from Rainham by the stream that divides Chafford from Havering hundred.

This estate also derived its name from an owner, and is sometimes called Newenhall. In 1298 John de Dover held a messuage at Newenhall, in the hundred of Havering; Richard was his son and heir. The premises were granted by charter, in 1454, to Richard Walderne and his wife. In 1519 the manor was parcelled out by license. It became united in the possession of Thomas Collett, Esq. some time before 1606. Peter Collett, Esq., in 1607, held the manor. His heirs and daughters were, Esther, wife to Sir Anthony Aucher, and Sarah, wife to Sir Peter Layman. In 1627 Elizabeth Fountain was lady of this manor. Dr. Nash, chancellor of Norwich, and the Rev. Dr. Dunford, were lately joint possessors of it; but upon the death of Dr. Nash it became the sole property Dr. Dunford.

Hornchurch is considered as one parish, which contains the above manors, in the liberty of Havering. It is divided into seven wards: Havering ward, Northend, Noke-



Noke-hill, Collier-row, Harold's-wood, Romford town, and Southend, wards; the other places in it of note are, Havering-park, Havering-plain, Wright's-bridge, Brick-hill, Mayland, Great Pondmans, Brakers, Marshalls, Hare-street, so called undoubtedly from Harold's-street, Northend, and Southend, in Hornchurch, Langton, Hackton, &c.

There is an absurd tradition, that Hornchurch hospital was built by a female convert, to expiate her sins, and was at first called Horchurch, till a certain king riding that way, called it Hornchurch, and caused a pair of oxen's horns to be fixed up at the east end; but it is more probable that the crest was that of a religious house in Savoy. It is uncertain, however, whence the name was given to this place, but it was not till the reign of Henry III. This king was the original founder of the hospital. The revenues being seized, they were, with the leave of the pope and Richard II. purchased by William of Wickham, for his new college at Oxford; and from that time Hornchurch-hall, Suttons, with the church and the tithes of the parish have remained in the possession of that college: they are ordinaries of the place, and the vicar holds the church for life, without institution of the bishop, and exempted from the payment of procurations, synodals, first fruits, or tenths.

Lady Tipping founded a school here for twenty children, to read and write. The several parts of the liberty are rated to the land-tax as follows: Havering ward 931*l.* Collier-row 1047*l.* Northend ward 1556*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.* Noke-hill ward 659*l.* Harold's wood ward 1192*l.* Hornchurch 821*l.* Romford town ward 2606*l.* Southend ward 2802*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.*

#### CHAFFORD HUNDRED.

THE name of Chafford is undoubtedly taken from the Saxon words, which mean swift and ford. The length of this hundred is thirteen miles from north to south; and the width from west to east seven miles in its widest part; but in the end towards the north, about South Weald, it is not more than two miles and a quarter wide. It is in the disposal of the high sheriff at the time being; and is in the archdeaconry of Essex. In this hundred are fourteen parishes: Alveley, Wemington, Rainham, West Thurrock, Greys Thurrock, Stifford, South Okendon, North Okendon, Cranham, Upminster, Great Warley, Little Warley, Childer Ditch, and South Weald.



## A L V E L E Y.

IT is very difficult to account for the origin of this name; ley signifies a pasture ground; the former part is probably derived from a Saxon word, signifying a fairy. In the reign of the Confessor, the lands of this parish belonged to Suene, and to ten freemen; at the time of the general survey, to John son of Waleram, and others. They were afterwards divided into these four following manors: Alveley, Belhouse, Bumpstead, and Bretts.

The mansion-house belonging to the manor of Alveley, is totally demolished. It stood near the south-east corner of the churchyard. The field, in which it was situated, is still surrounded with a moat; which although considerably grown up, yet still appears round, and in some parts is filled with water. The situation is both pleasant and airy; the ground falls gently to the south, with an agreeable prospect of the Kentish hills: this estate is part of what Waleram possessed at the survey. In the reigns of Henry II. and John, it was held of the king by Gilbert de Tany, under the name of Anvilers; it afterwards came into the possession of the families of De Brianfon, Bradeston, and De la Pole. The Bradestons held it in 1360; and in 1433, as the inheritance of his wife, Sir Walter de la Pole was in possession of this manor. In 1509, Alured Rawson, citizen of London, and merchant of the Staple at Calais, was lord of the manor; he possessed it after it had passed through the heirs of the Ingolthorpe family. His son left one daughter and heir, Anne, married to Sir Michael Stanhope, ancestor of Lord Chesterfield. It afterwards became the property of the crown, but in what manner is not clearly ascertained; it was however made part of the endowment of the hospital of the Savoy, in London, founded by Henry VIII. in 1505. The master of this hospital granted it to John Martin, citizen of London. After the suppression, Edward VI. granted this manor to the mayor and commons of that city, and it belongs to them as governors of St. Thomas's hospital.

The manor of Belhouse had an ancient feat, situated in a park, about three miles in circumference, adorned with old oaks and various other trees. There was formerly a heronry in this place, but of late it has been demolished.

The estate took its name from the Belhouse family, which flourished in the reigns of king John and Henry III. By a marriage into this family, John Barrett, Esq., becoming possessed of part of this estate, came and resided here: the family was of  
Kent



Kent originally. In 1645 Edward Barrett, Esq., died in possession of it, and by will left the manor to his cousin Richard Lennard, Esq., on condition of his taking the name of Barrett. In queen Elizabeth's reign, the title of Dacre came into this family. Thomas Barrett Lennard, Esq., succeeded to the manor, on his grandfather's death, and to the title of Dacre on the death of his mother, in 1755. The manor of Belhouse had a court baron and court leet, but they grew into disuse, as the lords purchased most of the estates, and added them to their demesnes.

The manor of Bumpstead, or New Place, belonged, in the reign of the Confessor, to Edward and Godmann; and, at the time of the survey, to Odo bishop of Bayeux and Ansgar the cook.

The mansion no longer exists. It stood formerly on the north side of Lord Dacre's park, rather more than a mile north-east from Alveley church, and had a moat around it.

The manor formerly belonged to the family of Bumpstead, from whom it took its name. In the reigns of Edward I. II. and III. Sir William de Bumpstead, and William his son, had lands in the parish. In 1341 the latter granted them to Nicholas Staunton, clerk. In 1372 Ralph, son of Sir John de Staunton, granted lands to John Birch and John Siward, who, in 1373, granted them to Samuel Gryce and others, and they conveyed them to Thomas Belhouse, Esq., in 1375; after the suppression of religious houses, and that they had been vested in other hands, Henry VIII. granted them in 1540 to Edward North, Esq., afterwards Lord North; and he, in 1541, sold them to Edward Barrett, Esq., by which means they returned into the possession of the heirs of Thomas Belhouse, Esq., who had given them to Stratford abbey. The manor has descended to the right hon. Lord Dacre, with the rest of the estates.

Brooklands, a reputed manor, adjoining to that of Bumpstead, was, in 1390, purchased of Robert Roydon by Thomas Belhouse, Esq., and by his direction conveyed to Stratford abbey. Since which time it has gone along with Bumpstead manor.

The manor of Bretts: the mansion-house of this manor lies about a mile north-west of the church, within sight of the road from Alveley to Romford; it is large and encompassed with a moat of water, and though since converted into a farm-house, yet still preserves every appearance of its former grandeur. The lower story is built of brick, with ancient Gothic windows; the rest is of plaster. The ancient name of this estate is supposed to have been Kelitun, of which, in the Confessor's reign, one



Ulfstan had a part, and five freemen the rest: at the time of the survey, Sweyn and his tenant were the possessors.

Part of it took the name from its ancient owners, the family of Le Brett, which is a family of the greatest antiquity. The other part retained its original name as far back as 1395. Hugh Le Brett, who died in 1266, had this township of the king; his son John died in 1298. Thomas Le Brett, his grandson, died in 1329, and his widow had an assignment of her dower out of this manor. Elizabeth, their only daughter and heir, brought this estate by marriage to her husband Henry Baudwin, of South Okendon. In 1342 Robert Bolington possessed part of this estate; and, in 1375, his son settled all his estates, &c. called Le Bretts, in trustees' hands; he died in 1395: Joanna, his daughter, was married to William Sautree, Esq., whose heirs, in 1446, passed away the manor to Richard Andrew, clerk, afterwards dean of York. In 1462 he sold the estate to Richard Sely, merchant. His daughter Isabella became possessed of the whole, and in 1551 she, who had married — Cork, conveyed it to John Baker, recorder of London, afterwards knighted, then privy counsellor and chancellor of the exchequer. He having married the widow of George Barrett, Esq., they, in 1554, after their death, settled the reversion of this manor on Edward Barrett, Esq.: from him it came to Lord Dacre.

Keliton, part of which was held by Sweyn, is a large farm belonging to Lord Dacre, now called Kennington. The possessors of it from Sweyn's time are not known till Edward III.'s reign, when it was in the family of Gernett. Sir Henry Gernett, in 1345, held it by a quit-rent, which is still paid to the crown. William Trussell, who died in 1480, held this manor of the prior and convent of Prittlewell. Elizabeth Trussell, afterwards marrying John de Vere earl of Oxford, brought this estate into that family. Edward earl of Oxford sold the manor and estates to William Ayloff, Esq., who died possessed of them in 1585. Sir Benjamin Ayloff, Bart. disposed of them to Edward Barrett lord Newburgh; and from him they passed over to their possessor Lord Dacre.

Lord Newburgh erected an alms-house in this parish, in 1639; it was taken down in 1745, and a smaller one built out of the materials.

Alveley was formerly a market town; the high road, which runs through this parish, was anciently called Bredle-street, and probably was a road in the time of the Romans. The soil in Belhouse-park is dry, being gravel, which however does not prevent its fertility. The soil is of the same nature nearly throughout the parish;  
but



but towards the southern part it is rather poorer: there are some chalk-pits, which afford good manure to the country.

The church is dedicated to St. Michael, and consists of a north and south aisle, and middle pace. The chancel has a chapel or vestry. At the west end is a tower of flint and stone, built square; there was formerly a spire, but it was blown down during the great storm in 1703. The church was originally a rectory and a sinecure, in the gift of the abbot and convent of Lesnes, in Kent, till the year 1327, when the first vicar was admitted by the rector's presentation. No vicarage was endowed till 1330, when the bishop of London appropriated the great tithes to them, and endowed a vicarage, reserving the collation to himself and successors. The rectory and great tithes remained in that abbey till the suppression of monasteries. In 1525 Henry VIII. granted them to Cardinal Wolsey; upon his premunire they came back to the king, and he granted them in 1535 to the dean and chapter of St. Paul, and their successors. The Dacre family leases them of the dean and chapter. Near the manor-house was formerly a chapel. The land-tax is 977*l*.

### WENINGTON.

WENINGTON lies to the west of Alveley, bounded by Rainham on the north, the Thames and Ingreburn on the south and west; it appears to have derived its name from the winding of the river. Before the Conquest it belonged to the abbey of Westminster. Edward the Confessor acknowledged it, and in Domesday-book it is found to be one of their manors. It was afterwards divided into three, Wenington-hall, Noke, Levingthorpes.

Wenington-hall manor-house stands by the church, on the left hand side of the road from Rainham to Alveley. The lordship was anciently in John de Marisco. Till the time of Edward III. after him little is known of this manor; then Garnett, a family of High Easter, was in possession of it. It was probably before them in the De la Hays. The estate was purchased by Sir John Gildesburgh of Maud wife of Sir Thomas Charnels, and daughter of Sir Henry Garnett; from Sir John it came to Sir Richard Waldegrave and other trustees. In 1480, William Truffell, at the time of his decease, held it; it came into the Oxford family by the marriage of Elizabeth above mentioned. Edward earl of Oxford, who had dissipated his property, sold it to Sir William Ayloff. After the death of Sir Benjamin Ayloff, it belonged



belonged to Thomas Allen, clerk, vicar of Cookham, in Berkshire, and to John Allen, whose daughter brought it in marriage to William Ashby, Esq., of Harefield, in Middlesex.

Noke-hall lies to the west of the church, in the marshes, and had its name probably from the bend of the river, which there forms a promontory or nook; it was taken out of the manor of Wenington. This estate belonged formerly to a family of the name of Noke, and it came afterwards into the family of Warner, of Kent. In 1457 John Warner, Esq., conveyed it to William Isle, Esq. In 1460 William Pert had it; then Henry Andrew, of South Okendon. His son assigned it to John Barrett, Esq., of Belhouse, who died in 1526. It has descended with the other estates to Lord Dacre.

Levingthorpes was another part of the manor of Wenington, and appears to have belonged to Margaret youngest daughter of Sir Henry Garnett; she lived about the time of Richard II. It derived its name from one of its possessors. In 1506 Reginald Bismere held this estate, at the time of his death, of Elizabeth Trussell. The name of Levingthorpe is nearly forgotten in the parish, being only retained in a small farm-house, or ale-house, next the church. The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary and St. Peter, is a handsome building, and stands high above the marshes, near the hall: it has a square tower. The rectory was in the gift of the abbot and convent of Westminster, till 1540, when Henry VIII. granted it to the bishop of Westminster. But upon the suppression of that short-lived see, queen Mary, in 1554, granted it to Bonnor bishop of London, in whose successors it has since continued. There is no parsonage-house. The land-tax is 918*l*.

#### R A I N H A M.

RAINHAM lies to the north-north-west of Wenington, and is bounded on the west by the rivulet Ingreburn. This rivulet receives vessels from the Thames, and has a very commodious wharf. It derives the name from two Saxon words, which signify clean; or a wild goat; and ham a village. The lands belonged to Alfi, a freeman, in the time of the Saxons, Alward, Lefstan, and a priest. Odo bishop of Bayeux had them at the time of the survey, and his under-tenants; Robert Gernon and his tenants, Walter de Douai, and Haghebern. Thence arose the following manors: South-hall, Berwick, Gerpins or Gerberville, and Launderers.



The manor of South-hall is so called from its situation in the south of the parish. The mansion-house is just above the marshes, on the left hand side of the road leading from Rainham to Wenington. This estate came to the crown upon the deprivation of Odo of all his property. Roger de Crammaville held it soon after, about 1250. In 1308 Robert Walround died in possession of it. Alan Plunkenet was his heir. It coming into Edward III.'s hands in 1329, he granted it to Thomas de Weston. Richard de la Bere, who had an interest in this manor, conveyed his right to Walter de Chefhunt, and his heirs. In 1346 Menander de Chefhunt conveyed all his right to Sir John de Stanton and Alice his wife. In 1390 Thomas de la Bere, of Dorsetshire, released to Thomas Newtune and his wife and heirs, all their right in this manor, and advowson of the chapel. In 1503 Sir John Shaw, at the time of his death, held the manor of the king and prior. In 1519 a pardon was granted to John Makyn, for purchasing this estate, and another to Ellis, for purchasing the same. Sir John Rainsforth had a license, in 1520, to alienate the manor to Richard Nix bishop of Norwich. He forfeited it by premunire in the reign of Henry VIII. who granted it to William Bellamy, and he, in 1552, conveyed it to trustees. In 1576 his son alienated it to Anthony Radcliffe, citizen of London. The manor was at length purchased by Elizabeth widow of Robert Conway, an East India captain. She was daughter of — Wetherley, Esq., of Cheshire. A moiety of this estate was afterwards in Mary Johnson, who sold it to Samuel Heckford, of Clement's Inn. The other half was in Frances Howland, niece of Mrs. Conway, who married Barrington Taverner, Esq.

The manor of Berwick derives its name from a Saxon word which signifies a hamlet; it is sometimes called a parish. The mansion is about two miles north-east of the church: on the left hand side of the road leading to Upminster, there are the remains of a good house still to be traced, although now but poor; its situation is very pleasant. At the time of the survey it was the property of Robert Gernon; his grandson, Gilbert de Montfichet, gave it to the knights templars; after their suppression, Henry VIII., in 1525, granted this manor, with the advowson of the church, to Cardinal Wolsey, for the building of his colleges; but upon his forfeiture they again came to the crown. In 1544 the king granted the manor of Berwyke Rainham, and the advowson, and the rectory, to Robert Southwell, master of the rolls. His son and heir Sir Thomas Southwell alienated it, in 1591, to Robert Houghton, Esq., and others. Ralph Freeman, of Aspeden, in Hertfordshire,



fordshire, is the next name upon record who presented to the living in 1644, and died in 1665, leaving by his wife Mary, daughter of Sir William Hewytt, Knt. Ralph his eldest son; who in his lifetime gave the estate to his eldest son Ralph Freeman, Esq., and he alienated it to George Finch, Esq., a younger branch of the family of the earls of Winchelsea; his son sold the manor to Sir Thomas Cross, Bart., of Westminster. Some parts of this manor were dismembered by Sir Robert Southwell, the younger. The estate lies near Gerpins, and is sometimes called Downe Hall.

The manor of Gerpins, or Gerberville, derived its name from the old family of Imperville. The mansion stands near the road leading to Upminster, about a mile and a half north-east of the church. In 1297 Laurence de Imperville held in Rainham, of the prior of St. John's of Jerusalem, some lands of this manor. Little is known of this estate till 1631. Daniel Lowen held the manor at that time.

Of the manor of Lauanders very little is known; it appears to have belonged to Walter de Douai. In 1440 John Leventhorp had it, and Reginald Birmore in 1506. Richard Herde, citizen and butcher of London, in 1568, had this manor.

Dovers, a manor in Hornchurch parish, just over Rainham bridge, extended into this manor.

The church, dedicated to St. Helen and St. Giles, consists of a body and two aisles. The chancel is of one pace. The pillars are square and massy, and the walls thick; the upper part of the church door is curiously wrought. There are some small benefactions to the parish. The church was given by Henry II. or Richard de Lucy, the founder, to the abbey of Lefnes, in Kent. The tithes were granted to the abbey, and a vicarage endowed, the advowson of which continued in the convent till the suppression, when they were given to Cardinal Wolsey, upon whose fall they reverted to the crown, when Henry VIII. exchanged them, in 1536, with the prior of St. John of Jerusalem. The rectory was granted afterwards to Sir Robert Southwell. From him they passed to the families of Freeman and Finch, and then to William Blackburn, Esq. The vicarage-house being utterly decayed, Samuel Keckwick, vicar in 1701, purchased a house, garden, and outhouses, for his successors; and George Finch, Esq., afterwards rebuilt it at his own charge. In the reign of Edward III. a charity was founded here by Sir John Staunton. Land-tax 1870/. 1s.



## THURROCK.

THREE parishes adjoining the Thames are distinguished from each other of the same name, by the addition of West, Grey's, and Little. The two first are within this hundred, and the latter in the hundred of Barstaple. The name is most probably derived from the Saxon, which signifies oak, here being formerly a large grove of oaks.

West Thurrock is so called from its situation; in the reign of the Confessor the owners of land in the parish were, Aluard a freeman, Maurice, another freeman, and twelve others. At the time of the survey, Odo bishop of Bayeux had them, and his under-tenants. There is now but one manor. The manor-house has been called West-hall, and Le Vyneyard, from its having a beautiful vineyard, now High-house; its situation is very pleasing, on the side of a hill, and commands a delightful prospect over the marshes and river Thames. After Odo had been deprived of his estates for his conspiracies against his brother William the Conqueror, the next owner upon record is Briançon, who probably had it from the crown. After the Briançons the reversion came to Sir William de Wanton; he held the manor of the Earl of Richmond in 1347. It afterwards passed over to the Bohun family. In 1404 John Lightfoot and others were tenants of this manor. It next belonged to the Wideville or Woodville family; Henry VI. having granted it to Richard Wideville, in 1448, upon creating him Lord Rivers. In 1491 it came to Elizabeth Wideville, married to Sir John Grey, and afterwards to king Edward IV. In 1509 Sir Thomas Grey, marquis of Dorset, died in possession of it; his son, the marquis, passed it to John Spencer in 1517. Part, or the whole of it, under the capital lords, from the time of Henry III. to that of Henry VIII. was held by the Torell family. After William Spencer, Esq., Sir William Hollis had the capital manor. In 1547 his son Sir Thomas Hollis passed it over to Robert Taverner, and he to Robert Long, citizen and mercer, of London; he died possessed of it in 1551. His daughters and coheiresses were, Mary wife of Henry Vyner, Martha of William Meredith, Magdalen of Roger Sadler, who next possessed it. Meredith and his wife disposed of their part to Richard Smyth and others. The son of Magdalen Sadler sold, by license, his mother's moiety to Thomas Owen and Stephen Duckett, Esqrs. The estate was next in Christopher Holford, Esq.; it was afterwards in Benjamin Desbrowe, Esq.; he sold it to Caleb Grantham, Esq.



Purfleet is also another manor in this parish, and derives its name from a haven or arm of the sea, here being a little harbour, where the river, which falls into the Thames, passes by Stifford. It belonged formerly to the prior of St. John of Jerusalem, of whom it was held in the beginning of Henry VIII.'s reign. It was afterwards in queen Elizabeth: in 1583 Sir George Hart held it of her. About the beginning of the last century the manor belonged to Sir Biby Lake, Bart.; Sir Attwell Lake, Bart., his son; Sir Cæsar Child, Robert Hudson, and Philip Hubert, Esqs., were joint owners of it. The court of chancery ordered a division of it in 1749. At Purfleet were formerly large corn mills, greatly to the annoyance of the country, on account of their admitting the tide from the river Thames, into the water-course which runs through Stifford from Bulvan, and is the southern boundary of Alveley parish. That circumstance is now prevented by a strong sluice. Government having purchased these mills, they have erected a large magazine for the store of gunpowder; they have also made a quay for the landing of the powder, and built a neat house on the hill for the keeper, and barracks to guard the magazine.

Among the hills, near Purfleet, are limeworks and chalk-pits. Here was formerly a ferry over the Thames. The river made a breach and inundation in West Thurrock in the year 1680; when trees and wood were washed out, similar to those from the inundation at Dagenham and Havering Levels, in 1707.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Clement, consists of a body and two aisles, and a chancel. It was the endowment of one of the seven prebends founded in the collegiate church within the castle of Hastings, in Suffex. The prebendary was rector, and had the great tithes appropriated to him; and presented to the vicarage. Upon the dissolution of religious houses, Henry VIII. granted it to the prebend of West Thurrock, with all the marsh and upland, and tithes; and in 1546 to Sir Anthony Browne and his wife. Daniel Holford, Esq., lately had it, from whom it passed to the owners of the capital manor in this parish. The land-tax is 748*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*

### GREY'S THURROCK.

GREY's Thurrock derived its name from the old and noble family of that name, to which it for many years belonged. It is sometimes called Great Thurrock. It is in the south-east corner of this hundred, and adjoins to Barstable. Part of the  
parish



parish is a small town, upon a creek of the Thames, capable of receiving vessels of small burden. It is about seventeen miles distant from London. Richard de Grey obtained a charter of Henry III. for a market weekly here on Fridays, now changed to Thursdays, and a fair yearly on the 28th and 29th of June, now on the 23d of May. Edward III. confirmed the grant in 1330. In the reign of the Confessor, the lands of this parish belonged to Harold and Almar; at the time of the survey they were held by the Earl of Eu and William Piperell.

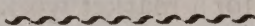
The mansion-house of the capital manor of this parish, once the Earl of Eu's, stands to the right of the road leading from the town to Stifford. Richard I., in 1194, the manor being vested in the crown, granted it to Henry de Grey; which grant king John confirmed. From the Greys, who held it till 1521, it went to Sir John Stourton, their cousin, afterwards Lord Stourton, he being their heir. In 1564 Sir John Zouch was lord of the manor. It then went to Thomas Kighley, Esq., who died in possession of it in 1617. Then William Palmer, Esq., purchased the estate: his son, in 1710, dying without issue, gave the manor and lands to Joshua Palmer, Esq., son of Dr. Palmer, of Devonshire, on account of the name, although he was no relation.

Peverells estate came by the marriage of Margaret heiress and daughter of William Peverell to the Ferrers family. William Ferrers Earl of Derby is supposed to have given it to the knights hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem; for in 1443 Henry de Grey held it of them. It is now involved with the rectory; the mansion-house of which stands in the fields, on the right hand side of the road leading from the town to West Thurrock. A free-school was here founded, near the church, by William Palmer, Esq. There are some other benefactions to the parish.

The church is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, and is built in form of a cross. The tower stands on the north side of the church: it had formerly a spire. It came from the Peverell to the Ferrers family, with the other estate in the parish. About 1200 William de Ferrers granted the church, with all its appurtenances, to God, St. John the Baptist, and the poor of the hospital of Jerusalem, for the health of his soul. The great tithes were afterwards appropriated to them, and a vicarage endowed, of which they continued patrons till the suppression. In 1544 Henry VIII. granted the rectory and advowson of the vicarage to William Riggs and Leonard Browne. They alienated them the same year, to William Goodwyn: he, in 1561, sold them to John and Andrew Osborne. In 1569 they sold them to Thomas



Farnell and Thomas Ruffell. William Kenrick had them in 1693. They afterwards came to — Vanhatten, Esq. The land-tax is 662/.



## S T I F F O R D.

STIFFORD lies to the north of the two last parishes, and is watered by the stream that goes to Purfleet. It is imagined that this small river was formerly navigable as far as Bulvan Fenn. It took its name from a ford, which was through it. It is sometimes called Stifford Clay. In the Confessor's reign, the lands of this parish belonged to Aluric, Aluin, and Barking nunnery; and, at the time of the survey, to Odo bishop of Bayeux, and his tenants. It was divided into the manor of Stifford and Flete-hall.

The hall of the manor of Stifford stands a short way east of the church; and Ford-house, about half a mile west of it, on the north side of the brook. The Crammaville family appear to have been the earliest possessors of it upon record; they lived in the neighbouring parish of Rainham. It came into the family of De Tilbury, in the reign of Edward II. The estate was for some generations in the Ardale family. Thomasine Ardale marrying Robert Latham, Esq., of North Okendon, brought him this estate. Richard May had this estate afterwards, and then John Silverlock, Esq., who sold it to Nathaniel Grantham, Esq.: Isaac Thorley was the next possessor; it was purchased of him by Andrew Goodwin, whose son, in 1738, alienated it to Henry Barret, Esq., of Southwark, for 5400*l.*; he gave it to his daughter, wife of Richard Cooke, of London; but it came, under a mortgage, to John Archer Shish, Esq.

The manor of Flete-hall, alias Clays, has a mansion-house, which stands about half a mile north-east of the church, on the east side of the brook. Nothing is known of it till Henry VII.'s time. These lands were most probably in the hands of the family of Bruyn, of South Okendon, about 1462. In 1471 Sir Henry Bruyn died, leaving two daughters, Elizabeth and Anne, coheiresses. They were both of them thrice married. The estate of Stifford fell to the share of Alice; Sir John Henynham, one of her husbands, held the estate of Flete-hall. By the presentations to the living, it is probable that this estate belonged formerly to the families of Harleston, Durning, Twysden, and Wylde; and after that to — Godwin, and — Smith. A manor called Tendering here, belonged to Joan Bradbury in 1530.



At the east end of the village is a very neat house and gardens, late Jasper Kinsman's, Esq. An alehouse, called the Dog and Partridge, belonged to Sir Thomas Gourney, Knt., and was anciently called Loveland: he, in 1622, had the advowson of the church.

The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and stands in a pleasant situation: it has a south aisle besides the body, and a chancel and chapel. The tower has a spire.

The rectory was long in the family of Bruyn, and appears to have been alternately in that and in the Thorrell family.

### O K E N D O N.

OKENDON contains two parishes of this name, north of Alveley and Stifford: it is not easy to say whether it had its name from a Saxon word, signifying an oak, and pasture hill, or from a proper name.

South Okendon belonged, in the Confessor's reign, to Frebert; and at the time of the survey, was part of the possessions of Geoffrey de Mandeville. It was divided into the two manors of Bruyn and Grove. Not far from the church was the capital feat, which was very stately, on the right hand side of the road leading to Brentwood. Very little of it now remains: it was encompassed by a moat. In the reign of Henry II., Henry de Eu held of Geoffrey de Mandeville, in Essex, this estate. In 1222 Sir Richard de Rokele held this manor. By marriage into this family, Sir William de Bruyn, in the reign of Edward I. procured the estate. In 1471 Sir Henry Bruyn dying, left his daughters and coheirs this estate, which was divided thus between them into Bruyns and Groves. Bruyns fell to Elizabeth, who had three husbands; her son, by her second husband Hugh Tyrell, was her heir. About 1630, one of the Tyrells alienated the estate to some person whose name is not known. The next owner was William Petre, Esq. of Stanford Rivers: he sold it to Jasper Kinsman, of Ardern-hall, in Horndon, and with them it remained some time.

The mansion-house of the manor of Groves stands about a mile north of the church, and was part of Alice's property (daughter of Sir Henry Bruyn), who had three husbands; it came to the Heninghams, her second husband's family. It then went to the family of Saltonshall; and from them to John Goodere, of Claybury, by marriage.



Pointz is a house here, belonging formerly to Admiral Lyttleton.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, and is situated very pleasantly. It consists of a north aisle and body; the chancel has a north chapel. The tower is round, after the Danish manner. There was on it formerly a leaden spire.

The advowson of the rectory was at first in the Bruyn family; after the division of the manor and estates, the presentation became alternate in their heirs and successors. The parish is rated to the land-tax at 1307*l*.

### NORTH OKENDON.

NORTH OKENDON lies northward of the other parish, it is otherwise called Septem Fontium, probably from seven springs or fountains there, or from some owner's name. It belonged to Earl Harold in the reign of the Confessor, and to the abbey of St. Peter, at Westminster, at the time of the survey. In the reign of Edward II. John Malegreffe had possession of it. The estate some time after came into the family of Poyntz, of Gloucestershire. Catherine, sole heiress to the estate, daughter of Sir Gabriel Poyntz, brought it in marriage to her husband Sir John Morice, of Chipping Ongar. Her grandson, who had assumed the name of Poyntz, dying in 1623, held this manor, with other lands. In 1643 the estate came by marriage to the family of Lyttleton. It afterwards came to Lyttleton Poyntz Meynell, Esq.

Stubbers is an ancient seat or capital messuage in this parish, about half a mile west from the church, which formerly belonged to the family of Coys, of Welsh extraction. It was afterwards purchased of a Worcestershire family by Sir William Russell, Knt.

The church, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, consists of a body and north aisle, the length of the church and chancel. The tower, which is embattled, is built of stones. The rectory has been always appendant on the manor. The land-tax is 744*l*.

### CRANHAM.

CRANHAM was not much known till about the reign of Edward IV.; the name of Okendon was common to the district, till it was divided into three lordships. In the reign of the Confessor it belonged to Aluric. The name of Cranham was probably adopted for brevity, as it was formerly called Okendon Episcopi. The manor-house is situated near the church. In 1339 Nicholas de Haughton had it.



In 1442 Sir Lodowic, or Lewis, John, of West Thorndon, who died at that time, held it of the bishop of London, by the service of thirty shillings per annum. He was attainted. Richard III. when duke of Gloucester, obtained a grant of this manor, a part of the possession of Lewis John, attainted. The Mordaunt family afterwards had it with the manor of West Thorndon. They soon after sold the estate to Sir William Petre. In 1571, at the time of his death, he possessed this manor and the advowson of the church. John, his son, afterwards created Lord Petre, died in 1613, and held this estate of the bishop of London, with the advowson of the church, as of his castle of Stortford. In 1635 Francis Petre, Esq., was lord of the manor, and he disposed of it to Nathan Wright, Esq., merchant, of London. Sir Nathan Wright's descendant died in 1727; his widow was married to Herbert Tryst, Esq., high sheriff of the county in 1737, who enjoyed the estate in her right till her death in 1741.

Berdens is a capital messuage, or reputed manor in this parish, and lies towards Warley Place, about two miles north of the church. Ralph Latham, Esq., dying in 1556, held this manor. There are here two alms-houses, given by Nathan Wright.

The church is dedicated to All Saints, and is of one pace with the chancel. It has a wooden turret.

The rectory has been appendant to the manor of Cranham-hall. The parsonage house was rebuilt some years since. The land-tax is 710*l.* 2*s.*

### U P M I N S T E R.

UPMINSTER is a large parish, and extends from Rainham on the south to South Weald on the north; Cranham and Warleys lie to the east; and it is divided on the west from the liberty of Havering by the rivulet called Ingreburn. It is divided into North and South Upminster, and derives its name probably from a word which signifies a church, and the first syllable from its situation on upper ground. In the reign of the Confessor, the lands of this parish belonged to Waltham-abbey, Sweyn, Suart, and Ulouin, and, at the time of the survey, were in the same abbey, in Walter de Douai, and in Odo bishop of Bayeux. Walter's possession, which indeed was the chief part of the parish, is what afterwards received the name  
of



of Gaines, from a considerable family furnamed De Engaine. The mansion-house stands about half a mile south of the church, near the cross of Gaines. The estate did not remain long in the hands of Walter de Douai's family; for, in the reign of king John, it was in the family of William de Courtenay. Till 1318 it continued in the possession of his heir, Engaine lord de Blatherwicke, in Northamptonshire. In Edward III.'s reign it came to Simon de Havering, and afterwards to John de Havering. The manor of Gaines remained in the Havering family. In 1383 Sir William Windfor had the manor, and after his death Sir John Deyncourt obtained a grant of it. The next possessor to the Deyncourts was Nicholas Wayte, citizen and draper of London. His heirs were of the name of Bendowe and Pyke: they alienated the manor to Ralph Latham, Esq., citizen and goldsmith of London, of a good family. In 1560 the Lathams alienated the manor to Robert Badley and Ralph Latham, and in 1563 again to William Strangmar, for the use of William Latham. In 1587 to Guard D'Ewes, citizen and stationer; his son alienated the manor to Francis Rowe, Gent. and George Wiseman, for the use of William Latham, Esq., the elder, for his life, with remainder to his son. Thus it returned into the Latham family, and very probably these alienations were only by way of trust. — Herbert, Esq., has probably been since lord of the manor of Gaines. In 1721 it was sold to Mr. Graves, of Suffex, a clergyman, who possessed it for about sixty years, and sold it to — White, Esq.

The manor of Upminster-hall was amongst the seventeen given by Harold to the abbey founded by him at Waltham, called since Waltham-hall. Edward the Confessor confirmed it to that house. The abbey was possessed of it at the time of the survey. It was probably a hunting seat for the abbot: here he had a chapel, and where the garden now is was a cemetery; it is very pleasantly situated, and stands about a mile north of the church. Henry VIII., after the dissolution, granted this estate to Thomas Cromwell Earl of Essex. Upon his attainder it reverted to the crown, and in 1543, Henry granted it to Ralph Latham, of London, goldsmith; William Strangman had it from the Latham family, and in 1593, Roger James and his heir. In 1599 a court was held here in the name of Thomas Claybourne and his wife; and in 1628 a fine was levied, and the uses declared to Ralph Latham, Esq., and in 1646 Ralph, his son, mortgaged this estate, and sold it next year for 6640*l.* to Juliana viscountess dowager Camden, who settled it on herself for life, with remainder to Henry second son of Baptist Noel, grandson and heir to Edward Lord



Lord Camden. It continued with them till 1685, when, by a decree of chancery, it was purchased by Captain Andrew Branfell, of Dartmouth, Devon. It continued in that family.

A third manor of this parish was that of Uluin in the Confessor's reign, and afterwards of the bishop of Bayeux, at the time of the survey. It is the most southern part of the parish, adjoining Alveley, and part of the estate called Bumpsteads. It probably comprehended many of the lands, now freehold, in South Upminster. If the whole parish of Upminster were to be divided into ten parts, according to the number of hides in Domesday-book; about six parts and a half would belong to the manor of Gaines; about two to Upminster-hall; and the remaining part and half to Bumpsteads.

New-place is a nominal manor, and stands a little way east of the church, and is so called to distinguish it from Gaines, the ancient residence of the lords of this manor. The house is now completely down, and nothing remains but a few outhouses. It was part of the estate of Ralph Latham, who died in 1556. His descendant's daughter marrying Sir Thomas Skipwith, Bart. of Lincolnshire, he sold the place to John Rayley, citizen and draper, of London. Sarah, wife of John Rayley his son, he dying without issue, next possessed it, and she married John Major, of London.

Bridge-house is another manor in this parish, and stands near the bridge over the brook, whence it takes its name; it lies partly in this parish and partly in that of Hornchurch. John de Reydon, John Cook, and Richard Goddeston were the oldest possessors on record. It belonged to Ralph Latham and his successors.

Sunnings is a capital messuage in this parish, a mile and more south-east from the church, beyond Gaines. It was formerly the residence of the family of Frith. Park-corner is also a farm here; and Corbet's-tye a hamlet here, so named from an owner and the Saxon word which signifies enclosure. In North Upminster is a mineral water, impregnated with salt, similar to that of Brentwood.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Laurence, consists of a body and north aisle; the chancel has a north chapel, built by Sir John Engaine. In 1638 part of the church and steeple were fired by lightning, and defaced, but have been since repaired. It has a stone tower, and on the top is a spire.

The rectory was appendant on the manor of Gaines, till they were separated by Sir John Engaine. The advowson of it afterwards continued in the Engaine family. Sir Laurence Pabenham had it from his wife Elizabeth, sister of Sir Thomas Engaine.



gaine. Their daughter brought it in marriage to Sir Thomas Alesbury, and then to her second husband Sir William Cheyne; it continued in that family till 1513. Sir William Cheyne's daughter brought it in marriage to William Lord Vaux, of Harrowden, who granted away some turns, but died possessed of it in 1595. John Wright, Esq., had it at the time of his death in 1609; after which it was in the learned Dr. William Hervey, and in Halke, Newman, and Bray, and then belonged to Thomas Bradshaw, Esq. Mr. Samuel Bradshaw, rector, has built a very good parsonage house. The chapel above mentioned was built by Sir John Engaine, and thence called Gaine's chapel, and St. Mary, as well as the lane near it, was so called because it was dedicated to St. Mary. It was the burial-place of the family of Engaine and of that of Latham. The learned Dr. Derham was rector here from 1689 to 1735: he was an ornament both to this place and to the nation at large; his *Physico-Theology*, *History of Birds*, and various other writings, are well known. The parish of Upminster is rated to the land-tax at 984*l.*: North Upminster at 692*l.*

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### W A R L E Y.

WARLEY consists of two adjoining parishes of this name, Great and Little, otherwise called Abbess and Semeles; from one of these Saxon words, the meaning of which is ware or merchandise, the other, sea-weed, or pond, it is derived; but it is difficult to determine from which: the other termination signifies land or pasture.

Great Warley has two manors; that of Great Warley, alias Abbess Warley, and that of Warley Franks. The manor of Great Warley belonged, both before and after the Conquest, to the abbess of Barking, which occasioned its name. The mansion-house stood behind the church, but has been since taken down. The farm which belongs to the estate is called Pound-house. The court is kept at an alehouse on Warley-common, which has lately been famous for the encampments which have there been made. This estate came after the suppression of monasteries to the crown, when Henry VIII. granted, among others, in 1539, the manor of Great Warley, with its lands, &c. to William Gonson, Esq., and his heirs, with the advowson of the church; notwithstanding this, in 1541, Edward North was found to have alienated them to Edward Barrett, Esq.; such was the confusion of property in those times of reformation: but William Gonson had it at the time of his death in 1544. In 1600 Benjamin Gonson died possessed of it; and his four daughters

were



were his coheireffes, amongst whom the estate was divided. Some of the Evelyn family had it from 1649 to 1655, and then sold it to John Hart, merchant, of London, of whom it was purchased, in 1669, by Rowland Wynne, merchant, of London, and younger brother to Sir George Wynne, of Nostell Abbey, Yorkshire. He gave the estate to his two nephews, and the survivor died possessed of the whole, from whom it descended to Mark Wynne, Esq. They are sprung from the family of that name in Wales.

The manor of Warley Franks has a mansion, which stands about a mile west of the church. In the Confessor's reign, it was held free by Godric; and at the time of the survey, by Sweyn, of Essex. His grandson having forfeited it by his cowardice, it escheated to the crown. Henry III. upon his creating Hubert de Bergh earl of Kent, in 1226, granted him, among others, this manor. Soon after it was in Francis de Scoland, father and son, from whom it is supposed to have derived the name of Franks. It continued some time in this family. In 1418 Joan wife of Robert Ashburnham had the manor. John Godston had it in 1498; after this his grand-daughters possessed it; then it was divided between Elton, Ellis, and Hollingshed: it soon after came into the hands of Thomas Drywood and Anne his wife, and William Drywood sold the estate to Nicholas Fuller, Esq., of Gray's-inn, afterwards knighted. His son, in 1658, sold it to Thomas Gundry, Esq., of Chingford.

Warley-hall, a capital messuage, standing east of the church, is no manor. Thomas Wallenger had it of his wife.

Warley-place is an old seat, pleasantly situated, about two miles north of the church; it formerly belonged to the abbess of Barking, and afterwards to the ancient family of Fleming. Thomas Jackson, Esq., afterwards had it; he died in 1727. David Scott, Esq., having it left him by will, possessed it in 1747. Cleytey is a farm here.

The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and is of one pace with the chancel, and nearly the same breadth. The steeple was burned down by lightning some years since. The rectory was in the gift of the abbess of Barking till the dissolution. After that it was granted to the Gonson family, in which it continued till about the year 1590, and by successive purchases came into different hands. It now belongs to St. John's college, Cambridge. The land-tax is 1100*l.* 2*s.*



## LITTLE WARLEY.

LITTLE WARLEY parish lies east of the other, and is therefore called East Warley. In records it is called Semeles, and in Latin de Septem Molis and Septem Molar; probably because there were in it seven mills. The parish anciently belonged to the church of St. Paul, but one Guert was in possession of it before the Conquest. William the Conqueror gave it to the bishop of London, because it formerly had belonged to his fee. It does not appear how or when the bishops of London parted with it, but they had the advowson in 1327. There is only one manor in this parish. The hall stands near the church, and is delightfully situated, commanding a fine prospect over the vale below, but it is old and much decayed. William de Semeles was possessed of it in Henry III.'s reign; about the same time it seems to have been in the Burnel family. In 1453 John Eton held the manor and lands of the bishop of London. Sir John Tyrell also held it under the bishop. In 1641 Sir Denys Strutt held the manor, &c.

Darmelins, or Dame Ellens, is a farm or reputed manor, of about one hundred and forty acres of woodland. In 1686 Denner Bennett, Esq., the possessor, sold it to Miles Corbet: Mr. Grosvenor had it afterwards.

The church is dedicated to St. Peter, and is of one pace with the chancel. The tower was new built in 1718. Since the year 1382 the rectory has been in the family of Tyrell, of Heron. The land-tax is 574<sup>l</sup>.

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 CHILD ERDICH.

CHILDERDICH lies to the north of both the Warleys. Probably here was an ancient ditch or boundary, from whence the name might be derived. The lands of this parish, in the Confessor's reign, were divided into three parts, one of which belonged to Herbert, and after that to the queen, another to Aluen, a freeman, and the third to a freeman of the name of Augar. The sheriff of Surrey held the first at the time of the survey, the second was held by Sweyn, and the third by Saffeline. They were afterwards divided into two manors; Childerdich-hall and Tillingham-hall. The former of these stands a little way to the south-west of the church. This is what belonged to the crown at the survey, and was in the hands of the sheriff of Surrey. The manor continued in the crown till Henry VIII.'s reign, who granted it to Sir Thomas Seymour, with the other.

Tillingham-

Tillingham-hall stands on low ground, about a mile and a quarter south-south-east of the church, and contains a large extent of land, some of which lies in the parish of South Weald. It had its name probably from a family of De Tillingham, or a parish of that name, in the county. In 1376 Sir William Baude, senior, held this manor of the king. In 1377 license was granted to William de Humberstone and others, to give the estate to the abbot and convent of Coggeshall, for daily finding a taper to burn in their abbey church, before the high altar, at the time of high mass. The manor continued some time in the abbey of Coggeshall, though not quite till the dissolution in 1538. In 1525 Henry VIII. granted it among many other estates to Cardinal Wolsey, for the purpose of building and endowing his two colleges. Upon the cardinal's disgrace, all his lands and wealth coming to the crown, Henry granted the manor of Childerdich, Tillingham, &c. to Sir Thomas Seymour and his heirs. In 1540 he alienated the manors and granges of Childerdich and Tillingham-hall to Sir Richard Riche, who, in 1554, settled them on his second son Sir Hugh Riche. They afterwards went to the Earl of Warwick; and for many years were in the Cheke family, of Pirgo; for Sir Thomas Cheke married the daughter of Robert Riche Earl of Warwick. In 1707 it came to the youngest sister of the Cheke family, Anne Lady Tipping, whose youngest daughter brought it in marriage to Thomas Lord Archer. There are alms-houses in the parish for two dwellers.

The church is dedicated to All Saints and St. Faith; it is a very neat building, of one pace with the chancel. The steeple has a spire. In 1494 Robert Hovell and his wife put the advowson of the church into the hands of the abbot and monks of Coggeshall, to which they presented as a rectory till 1370. In 1380 the church was appropriated to that abbey, and a vicarage endowed. But this being done without the king's license, according to the statute of mortmain, the patronage became forfeited to the crown. They however obtained a pardon from Henry VI. for the sum of one hundred shillings, paid to the hanaper, under pretence that it was done through ignorance and neglect of counsel; and they remained possessed of the advowson of the vicarage, and of the great tithes, till the dissolution, when they were granted away with the two manors, and have remained with them ever since. The land-tax is 572/.

SOUTH WEALD.

SOUTH WEALD is a large parish, and occupies the north point of this hundred. The Saxon word weald signifies wood, and this place appears to have been one of the first inhabited parts of the forest of Essex. It has the addition of South to distinguish it from North Weald, near Epping. On the south-west side of Weald-hall park is a camp, enclosing about seven acres; it is single ditched and circular, and is supposed to have been a Roman summer camp.

The chief part of the parish belonged, before and at the time of the survey, to Waltham abbey. In the reign of the Confessor it belonged to Sprot and others. These lands were afterwards divided into the manors of South Weald, Boswells, Caldecotts, Brentwood or Costed-hall, Baads or Dounfels, and Ropers. In this parish are the four hamlets of Brentwood, Brook-street, Hastingwood, and Thornwood.

The manor of South Weald has a mansion-house, called Weald-hall, and is very pleasantly situated, a short way north-west of the church. It is one of the seventeen lordships with which Earl Harold, in 1062, endowed his abbey of Waltham, and it was confirmed by Henry II. and Richard I. From its belonging to the same abbey it received the name of Abbot's Weald. It continued in the possession of that abbey till 1540, when Henry VIII. granted that manor, with appurtenances and the great tithes, to Sir Bryan Tuke. He had been sheriff of the county, and was a man of learning. He died in 1545, and was succeeded by his son; he was succeeded by his brother, who, with William Celly, Gent. alienated the estate to Sir Richard Riche, Bart. lord chancellor; of him it was purchased by Sir Anthony Browne; it remained in this family till 1662, when it was disposed of to Sir William Scroggs; his son and heir sold the estate to Erasmus Smith, alias Heris, of St. John's, Clerkenwell, Middlesex, alderman of London. It continued with the Smiths till 1745, when Hugh Smith, Esq., who had married Dorothy daughter of the hon. Dacre Lennard Barrett, of Alveley, died, leaving two daughters coheiresses. It is now the residence of Christopher Towers, Esq. The house is a handsome building, situated in a large park, containing some fine wood.

The manor of Boswells, alias Boyles, the mansion-house of which stands about a mile and a half south of the church, on the right hand side of the road leading from Brook-street to Warley, was in the possession of one Sochman before the Conquest,

and which Robert Gernon held of the king's gift. Subsequently it came into the possession of the priory of Blackmore, and was granted in 1540 to Sir Bryan Tuke. His son alienated it to Humphrey Frith. John Justice, Esq., had it afterwards, of whom David Papillion, Esq., purchased it.

The manor of Caldecotts has a mansion-house, lying north of the London road, near Weald-hall park. Part of the Roman camp is within this estate; this is the portion which Sprot had in the reign of the Confessor, and Robert Gernon, his tenant, at the time of the survey. The whole or part of this estate was given by William or Richard de Montfichet to the abbey of Stratford Langthorne. After the dissolution, this manor was valued at the rent-afsize of the tenants, at 6*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*; farm of the manor 53*s.* 4*d.*; perquisites of court 1*l.* 14*s.* Henry VIII. in 1544, granted it to Thomas Blucke, and other London citizens. Queen Elizabeth granted it, in 1592, to William Tipper and Robert Dawe; and, in 1599, to Anthony Browne, Esq.; from whom it passed to Hugh Smith, Esq., and his heirs. Langtons, a principal house here, seems to have belonged to the abbey of Stratford, whence it derived its name of Langthorne.

The manor of Brentwood, otherwise Cost-hall, or Cocksted-hall. This manor contains the chief hamlet in this parish. The town of Brentwood, or Burntwood, is about seventeen miles from London, on the great road, and is situated on a hill, with an agreeable prospect. It has been lately much improved by additional buildings, as, from its short distance from London, it forms an attraction to the citizens. On Thursdays here is a good market, and two yearly fairs, one on July 18, the other on Oct. 15. The assizes were usually kept here; but from want of accommodation and other inconveniencies, they have been removed to Chelmsford. It is not known whence it derived its name; it was undoubtedly on account of a wood here. The land was given by William de Wochendon to the abbey of St. Ofyth, and confirmed to that house by Henry II. In the reign of king Stephen it had a market and fair. It continued in that monastery till its dissolution. Henry VIII. after the suppression, granted it to Thomas Lord Cromwell, upon whose attainder it came again to the crown; and in 1549 belonged to the lady Anne of Cleves. In 1553 Edward VI. granted this manor, with a fair and market in Brentwood, to Anthony Browne; from his successors it came to Hugh Smith, Esq., and his heirs, lords paramount of all the manors of the parish.

The manor of Baads, or Dounfels, lies on the right hand side of the street leading from

from Brentwood to Ongar; the house is about two miles north-east of South Weald church. It stands partly in this parish and partly in that of Shenfield. The earliest account of it is in 1483, when Ralph Bawds held the manor of the bishop of London. Thomas Bradbury, in 1509, held it next. From the Bradbury family it came to that of Crafford. During the civil wars it fell into the hands of John Leech, a Cornish man, and green grocer of London: he sold it, soon after the Restoration, to Thomas Manby, Esq., of a Lincolnshire family, and with them it remained. It was about 50*l.* or 60*l.* a year.

The manor of Ropers is now divided into Great Ropers and Little Ropers. The lands are on the left hand side of the road going from Brentwood, and extend from Brook-street towards Great Warley. It is so called from a possessor of it. Henry Roper, gentleman pourfuivant to queen Catherine, of Arragon, in 1614, had it: the place is now called Moat-house. In 1517 Constance Roper passed it to William Ipgrave. Great Ropers was in the possession of John How, Esq., of Stoneden, and then of William Taylor, Esq. Little Ropers belonged to Henry Hall, Esq., of Hutton.

The Moat, so called because it is furrounded with a moat, was formerly named Brook-hall, when in the hands of Wright, who had both the Ropers. It is situated in Brook-street, on the left, in the way to London, and was held of the dutchy of Lancaster. The estate was sold in 1721 to William Wheatley, broker, in London.

Brook-street is one of the hamlets in this parish, at the bottom of Brentwood-hill, by a brook, about a mile south-west of the town, on the London road. On the north side of this place was formerly an hospital for lepers, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, and founded by the Bruyn family, of South Okendon. Some remains of the building are still visible. Sir Anthony Browne had a grant of this hospital. The estate is now divided; Mr. Ewing Bayley had lately the site of the house.

Tillingham-hall is described under Childerdich; it has some of its lands, demesnes, and copyholds, extending into South Weald, nearly from Bently mill to Doddinghurst parish.

Here are a few alms-houses, near the church, and a few others, with some small benefactions to the parish. A grammar-school at Brentwood was founded by Sir Anthony Browne, in 1557. The master is to be a priest, nominated by the heirs of the Browne family. Two guardians of the lands and possessions of this school, to be put in and out at the discretion of the patron. The body and corporation to be perpetual, and to have a common seal. The master to keep the estate in repair, and

to read prayers to his scholars every Wednesday and Friday. The bishop of London and dean of St. Paul's were made visitors of the school, by a decree of chancery in 1570. The school-house stands in Brentwood town. The endowment is the parsonage of Dagenham, a valuable living, worth 500*l.* per annum, and Chigwell Grange, worth 100*l.* per annum.

The church, dedicated to St. Peter, stands on a hill, whence it commands a delightful prospect. It is a handsome building, consisting of two paces, supported in the middle by five pillars, of the Tuscan order. The chancel is the same. At the west end is a tower, embattled, of considerable height. The tower was built in the beginning of Henry VII.'s reign. The church was given by Earl Harold to his abbey of Waltham. In 1724 the vicarage was endowed with all tithes, both great and small, out of the lordship or demesnes of the abbey and convent of Stratford, in this parish. It has continued ever since in the gift of the bishop of London. The late incumbent, Dr. Brydges, was a considerable benefactor to this living, by building a handsome vicarage-house, of brick, and laying out a pleasant garden. About the year 1221, a chapel was founded at Brentwood; it was dedicated to St. Thomas the Martyr, that is, Thomas à Becket: the abbot and convent of St. Osyth were to build it; and divine service is kept up for the benefit of the inhabitants, who are become numerous since the London road has been made here. The revenue of the chapel is augmented by queen Anne's bounty. It continued in the abbey of St. Osyth's disposal till the reign of Henry VIII. Upon the dissolution, Henry granted it to Thomas Lord Cromwell; on his attainder it reverted to the crown, and the king granted it to John Cocke and Anne his wife, to hold in fealty. Anthony Browne had a grant of it in 1553, from whom it descended and passed as the manor of South Weald. The chapel is of one pace with the chancel. It has a small stone tower, with a spire. In the chapel was a chantry. The parish, with its several hamlets, is thus rated to the land-tax: South Weald 1303*l.*, Brentwood 1181*l.*, Brook-street 572*l.*, Thornwood hamlet 595*l.*, Hastings ward 457*l.* These two last are rated with the half hundred of Harlow.

ONGAR HUNDRED.

THIS hundred derived its name from a Saxon word, signifying a place, by way of distinction, as Ongar was the chief town in it. Becontree hundred bounds it on the south, and Havering liberty; on the east, part of the same liberty, and of the hundreds of Chafford, Chelmsford, and Barstable; the west is bounded by the half hundred of Waltham, and part of that of Harlow; on the north, lies part of this hundred, and of the hundred of Dunmow. It is about fourteen miles long from north to south, in its greatest extent; and from east to west about seven miles broad, in its greatest width.

Henry II. granted it to Richard de Lucy, who also had the castle of Ongar. Maud, sister of Herbert de Lucy, brought it in marriage to her husband, John de Rivers. She died in 1243. Her grandson, John de Rivers, in 1339, granted it to Sir John de Sutton. He, in 1348, enfeoffed Ralph Lord Stafford and his heirs. It continued in his posterity till 1521, when, upon the attainder of Edward, it reverted to the crown. Henry VIII. granted it to Lord Rich, who died seised of it in 1566. It continued for many years in his posterity, and being allotted to Sir Henry St. John, he sold it to Philip Traherne, Gent. of whom it was purchased by Sir Eliab Harvey, and has remained since that time in the family of Harvey, of Chigwell.

The deanery and hundred of Ongar is in the archdeaconry of Essex.

There are twenty-six parishes in the hundred of Ongar: Chipping Ongar, High Ongar, Norton Mandeville, Fifield, Roding Beauchamp, Roding Abbess, Laver High, Laver Magdalen, Laver Little, Moreton, Shelly, Bobbingworth, North Weald, Greensted, Stamford Rivers, Theydon Mount, Theydon Gernon, Theydon Bois, Loughton, Chigwell, Lambourn, Stapleford Tany, Stapleford Abbots, Navestock, Kelvedon Hatch, Stondon.

The parishes of Loughton, Lambourn, and Chigwell, are within the forest: those of Theydon Bois and Navestock, partly in and partly out; and all the others are out of the forest.

There is a singular custom in this hundred, called the Wardstaffe, which yearly takes place, and is worthy the attention of the curious.

ONGAR.

THE town of Ongar has given name to the hundred; it is distinguished from another of the same name by the addition of Chipping, from the Saxon word which means buying; as it has long been a market town. The market is now held on Saturdays, though formerly on Tuesdays. It has a fair on the 30th of September. It is likewise called Ongar ad Castrum, from a castle here, built by Richard de Lucy. It stands about twenty-one miles distance from London. The lordship belonged to Ailid in Edward the Confessor's reign, and to a freeman; and at the time of the survey, Eustace Earl of Boulogne, and Ralph Baignard, had the part of the freeman. From the Earl of Boulogne it descended to Stephen king of England, by his marriage with Maud. His son gave it to Richard de Lucy lord of Disse, in Norfolk. He erected it into a lordship, and built a castle here; it was situated on the top of a high artificial hill, round, and surrounded with a moat, which, with several others, protected the fortifications, and which are still to be seen. William Morice, the proprietor in queen Elizabeth's reign, took the castle down, as it was rapidly falling into decay, and erected a brick building in its place. This was also demolished by Edward Alexander, Esq., who, in 1744, erected a large house instead of it. From the Lucys it passed to Richard de Rivers, and from him to Sir John de Sutton, who disposed of it to Ralph Lord Stafford. In 1541 Henry VIII. granted this manor to George Harper and his heirs, and in 1543 Harper alienated it to William Morice, Esq. The estate came by marriage to Sir Fulk Greville and William Duncombe, Esq., and they sold it to Sir Thomas Whitmore, whose son disposed of it to Thomas Goldsburgh, of Ongar, Gent. In 1717 the Goldsburghs sold the estate to Edward Alexander, Esq., of High Ongar. He marrying Levina, daughter of Sir Levinus Bennett, of Cambridgehire, had by her a son, who took the name of Bennett. It continued in the Bennett family for a long time.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Martin, is of one pace with the chancel: it has a spire.

The rectory has been always appendant to the manor. The value of it is small. It is augmented with queen Anne's bounty, and other small benefactions. The land-tax is 1349*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*

H I G H O N G A R.

HIGH ONGAR has frequently been called Old Ongar; its extent is greater than that of Chipping Ongar, but its lords were inferior. In the reign of the Confessor, Leuric possessed part of this parish, with John son of Waleram. Another part, both before and after the Conquest, belonged to Waltham abbey. That which belonged to John of Waleram, was divided into the manor of Astelyns, Ongar-park, Foliots-hall, the manor of Chevres, that of Ashe-hall, and that of Wetherspane.

The manor of High Ongar comprehended a great part of this parish; it was chiefly of woodland.

The manor of Astelyns, alias Gapps, a hamlet in the parish, was taken out of the capital manor here; the lands lie in North Weald and Bobbingworth. It has now neither courts nor quit-rents. What is now a farm-house here was formerly a feat, with a moat round about it. It had anciently a park and some hundred acres. The lodge is in Bobbingworth. Thomas Duke of Norfolk is supposed to have here concealed himself, when accused of treason in abetting Mary queen of Scots. Monceaux was the next possessor of it after John de Waleram, as in the other manors. John Writyll had it after him, and William Ayliffe, Esq., in 1517. Dr. Harvey, of the college of physicians, purchased it, and settled it, in 1672, on that college, the members of which are the present possessors. The estate contains 337 acres.

Foliots-hall manor, now Forest-hall mansion, stands about three quarters of a mile north of the church. The estate formerly belonged to the dean and chapter of St. Paul. In 1544, Henry VIII. having obtained possession of it, granted it to William Riggs and Leonard Brown. They alienated it to Sir Richard Riche, who sold it in 1562 to Richard Stane, in whom it remained.

The manor of Chevres probably took its name from Sir William Chevres, who possessed it in the reign of Edward III. The house is situated about a mile eastward of the church, and stands by the side of a hill. In 1484 John Stalbroke had it of the Duke of Bedford. In 1524 William Pawne, Esq., possessed it, and afterwards it came by marriage to William Chatterton. John Austin had the estate in 1633, and very soon after Philip Holman came into it. Then it proceeded into the family of William Stane, Esq., who with it had the manor of Newarks, which lies partly in this parish and partly in Norton, where there is the manor-house.

The manor of Wetherspane is very little known till 1614, when Alexander Holman had it, and from him it came to the Baker family.

The manor of Ashe-hall has a mansion, which stands about a quarter of a mile east of the church, by the side of a brook. John de Frenles, son and heir of Sir William, held this manor of Hugh Earl of Stafford; this was in 1378. Little is known of it afterwards till the reign of James I.; then Sir Thomas Mildmay, Knt. of Springfield Barnes, held it, with other lands in Ongar, &c. Mr. Thomas Wallenger had it some time after, and then it became the property of Thomas Campion, Esq., of Croydon.

The manor of Ongar-park is not contiguous to the rest of the parish, but is divided from it by Bobbingworth and Greensted; from which it may be supposed that these two villages were erected from out of the woods of Ongar, before the Conquest. After Monceaux, the oldest possessor of this manor, of whom any mention is made, is Andrew de Welden, who died in 1352. Thomas, his son, with Margaret his wife, jointly held it, with remainder to Thomas Bataille, son of his sister. He died 1439. From this family it became the possession of Humphrey Shelton, Esq., who died in 1605. William Minshull afterwards enjoyed it, and sold it to Sir Thomas Webster, Bart., of Copped-hall, and he disposed of it to Aaron Frank.

The manor of Passelowe, or Passfield, was one of the seventeen lordships given by Earl Harold to his abbey of Waltham. That abbey kept possession of it till the dissolution, when it came to the crown. Henry VIII., in 1541, granted it to George Harper, who alienated it to Sir Richard Riche; it descended to his posterity the Earls of Warwick; it came to the Earl of Manchester on the partition of this Earl's estates. Sir Josiah Child purchased it, from whom it descended to Earl Tylney, and in this family it still remains. The church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, is of one pace with the chancel, and has a spire. This rectory, which is very valuable, is a manor, consisting of demesnes, and has several copyholds. The parish is rated to the land-tax at 1214*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.*

NORTON MANDEVILLE.

THE manor of Norton most probably had its name from its northern situation with regard to Ongar. It derived the name of Mandeville from Ralph Mandeville, who possessed the manor formerly.

This parish, in the reign of the Confessor, was divided into two different parts;

one

one belonged to a female of the name of Godid, who presented it to St. Paul's church in London. The other part belonged to Gotil; and when the survey was made, was held by Hamo Dapifer, and his tenant. In 1181 it contained one hundred acres of arable, and a small portion of other land. The dean and canons of St. Paul let this estate in 1190 to farm. In 1480 this manor, and that of Cannes in North Weald, belonged to Thomas Danvers, Esq., and were that year both purchased by Merton College, Oxford, for the sum of 493*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

The manor of Newarks Norton was most probably named from some new building. The house stands about a mile east of the church. The estate lies part in Norton and part in High Ongar. In Henry VIII.'s reign it passed, in 1542, to John Williams and Anthony Stringer, who alienated it in the same year to Sir Richard Riche. There is a surmise that the estate was once in the church of Westminster. In 1566 John Waylet held the manor. William Stane, Esq., of High Ongar, had it afterwards.

The church is dedicated to All Saints, and is of one pace with the chancel. It has a small spire. Here is neither rectory nor vicarage; a curate is appointed by the impropiator, and licensed by the ordinary. The curacy was augmented in 1743. The rectory and great tithes were given by Galiena de Dammartin to the nunnery of St. Leonard's, at Bromley, in Middlesex. After the suppression, Henry VIII. granted this rectory, in 1540, to Sir Ralph Sadler; who conveyed it to William Pawne, Esq. He died in May 1570; from his family it descended to Bridget Chatterton. Edward Elliot had it at the time of his decease, in 1595. It, after that, some time, belonged to Mr. Nicholas, but has since been sold. The land-tax is 326*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.*

F I F I E L D.

FIFIELD is to the north of both the Ongars, and of Norton; its name is derived from a Saxon word, signifying a quantity of land, in the Saxons' manner of reckoning. In the Confessor's reign, the lands in this parish belonged to Brictman, Aleuin, Leuric, and Alestan; and, at the time of the survey, to Eustace Earl of Boulogne, and John, son of John of Waleram. They were afterwards divided into the manor of Fifield, that of Herons, and that of Lampetts, which last is partly in Moreton parish. The Earl of Boulogne's was the paramount manor, but that of Waleram had the largest demesnes.

Fifield-hall manor-house stands on the north side of the church. It was soon after the reign of Henry II. in the family of De Tani, lords of Stapleford. Nicholas de Beauchamp had the estate from Gilbert de Tani in 1220, and presented to the living in 1231. John de Briançon was possessed of it in 1315. John Hotham, of Bondeby, held it in 1351, with his wife; Henry Lord Scrope, of Masham, in 1392, held the manor with the advowson of the church. Thomas, last Lord Scrope, dying without issue, his three sisters became coheiresses. In 1531 Sir Thomas Strangeways, who married Alice, one of the sisters, held this manor; Marmaduke Wyvill, Esq., married to Agnes, sister and coheir of John son and heir of Sir Ralph Fitz-Randolph, had another share. In 1536 Marmaduke Wyvill, Esq., and Agnes his wife, and their son, sold their share of the manor and advowson to Sir Richard Riche. The estate remained in the hands of the Earl of Warwick, who purchased the rest; but upon the death of Charles, last earl of this family, it came to the female heirs. It was purchased by Sir Josiah Child, of the Earls of Manchester, and his grandson, the Earl Tylney, possessed it.

The manor of Herons has a mansion-house, standing near a mile south of the church. The manor, which was taken from the capital one of Fifield-hall, was given to Lees priory, in this county; but when and by whom is not known. Part of Brett's tenements, as mentioned above, were held of the prior of Lees, as of this manor. After the suppression, Henry VIII., in 1536, granted this manor, with the priory's and other possessions, to Sir Richard Riche. He died possessed of it in 1566. It continued for many years in his noble descendants. Thomas Brand, Esq., of Pickerells, in this parish, lately had it, and it descended to his son.

The manor of Lampetts, of which the mansion-house stands about three quarters of a mile west-north-west from the church, either derived its name, or gave it to Thomas Lampett, an ancient proprietor, about Henry IV.'s reign. It belonged to the Writell family, of the neighbouring parish of Bobbingworth. In 1473 Walter Writell, Esq., died in possession of it. In 1750 John Collins, Esq., resided here, and died about that period. Whitney-green is about half a mile east of the church. A good mansion-house stands on it; some time the seat of George Pochin, Esq., sheriff of the county in 1700.

Dr. Walker, rector of this church, gave 10*l.* a year for teaching poor children to read and write. The church is dedicated to St. Nicholas, and consists of a body, and two aisles supported by pillars, arched over; but the chancel is of one pace: in

the middle stood the tower, after the plan of a cathedral. It fell down some years since. In the south wall are three arches, one above another, supported by two columns of grey marble, of the Tuscan order; and the windows are curiously wrought in stone-work. The tithes of the parish were given, in 1094, to the monastery of Bermondsey, by Roger de Tany, one of the knights of John Fitz-Waleram, with his lord's consent. In 1107 these tithes were confirmed to them, and with them the church of Fifield. Notwithstanding, before the year 1331, this church was again taken from them. This rectory has been ever since appendant to the manor of Fifield-hall, and is now in the Tylney family. The parish is rated to the land-tax at 1372*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.*

RODING BEAUCHAMP.

RODING BEAUCHAMP was undoubtedly so called from William Beauchamp, of Bedford, who held it in 1262. In the Confessor's reign Leucin and Eccius enjoyed this parish; at the time of the survey Alan Earl of Bretagne possessed it; and under him Alberic de Vere. There are two parishes of this name in Ongar hundred, besides six others in the hundred of Dunmow.

The manor-house of Long Barnes stands in a bottom, about a mile north of the church. About the year 1328 Henry Biddock held this estate, under the family of Vere. Robert de Vere, Duke of Ireland, lost it upon his attainder in 1387, and it was forfeited to the king. Richard Weald, who died in 1391, held the manor, with the advowson of the church, of Richard II. by reason of the said forfeiture. Elizabeth, married to Lewis Mews, Esq., was his daughter and next heir, whose son, in 1463, presented to this living. It was next in the Gate family. Sir Geoffrey Gate, who died in 1476, held the manor of Richard Duke of Gloucester, by service of a quarter of a knight's fee. King Philip and queen Mary, in 1558, granted all Sir John Gate's estates, upon his forfeiture of them, from his adherence to Lady Jane Grey, to Richard Weston and Margaret his wife. In 1605 Sir Richard Courtman recovered this estate from Sir Richard Weston, Knt., a descendant of Richard Weston's, by writ of entry. In 1635 it belonged to Richard Stokes; and afterwards to Lord North; then to — Heneage, Esq., of Hatton Garden, and finally to Mrs. Elizabeth Heneage.

The manor of Frayes, the house of which is the chief in the parish, is not far distant

distant from Long Barnes. The families of Gate and Weston were possessed of it a considerable time, as well as of the other. Mr. John Miller sold it to Mr. John Pochin, of London, and from him it came to his son, and then to his grandson. There is no court baron kept within the parish. Bird's Green is a hamlet, part in this parish and part in that of Willinge-hall Dow. The church is dedicated to St. Botolph, and is of one pace with the chancel. The rectory was originally appendant on the manor of Barnes, but has passed through various hands. The land-tax is 511/.

RODING ABBESS.

RODING ABBESS was so called, because a manor in it, and the advowson of the church, belonged to the abbess of Barking. Before the Conquest, Leunel had another manor here, which at the time of the survey was held by Geoffrey de Mandeville. In the parish are three manors, Abbess-hall, Rookwood-hall, and the manor of Berwick Barnes, or Berners.

Abbess-hall stands behind the church. The manor continued in the abbey of Barking till the suppression. In 1554 Henry VIII. sold the manor of Abbess-hall and others, to Robert Chertsey and others. Next year Robert Chertsey alienated the premises and a wood to Robert Meredith, who sold them immediately to Robert Long. He, in 1549, conveyed the manor, with many others, to William Glasscock, Gent., who died in 1579, in possession of this estate. Tipper and Dawe procured a grant of it in 1592, but queen Elizabeth, in 1599, granted it again from them to Richard Glasscock. He immediately sold it to Gamaliel Capel, Esq., possessor of Rookwood-hall, adjoining. In 1720 his descendant sold the estate to John Howland, Esq., of Streatham, from whom it came to his daughter, and then to her son John Duke of Bedford. In 1739 his grace sold it to Stephen Skinner, Esq., of Walthamstow.

Rookwood-hall is about a mile west from the church, and took its name from an ancient owner. At the survey this part belonged to Geoffrey de Mandeville, who had probably taken it from the abbey of Barking. But he that held it was only a tenant of an ancestor of Geoffrey; and they could not dispose of the land but to the abbey. Till the year 1250, we have no account of the subsequent owners, when John Fitz-Richard held it; Richard Fitz-William, and Richard son of William de Roynges, in 1268. The lords paramount were the Earls of Oxford. It was next

in a branch of the Browne family. Two daughters of that name, coheireffes, one married to Sir Nicholas Waldegrave, and the other, first to Edward Wyatt, Esq., of Ickham, and afterwards to Gamaliel Capel, Esq., divided the estate between them. Sir Gamaliel Capel, at the time of his death, in 1613, held a moiety of this manor of Rookwood-hall, and a moiety of Rookwood-park, in this parish, of the Earl of Oxford. He and his posterity resided here. Gamaliel Capel, who died in 1720, sold this estate to John Howland, Esq., of Streatham, and from him it came to his daughter the Duchess of Bedford: her son, John Duke of Bedford, in 1739, sold it, with Abbess-hall, to Stephen Skinner, Esq. But the manor, and some of the demesnes, had before been sold to Mr. Hazard, of Harton. He mortgaged them to Mr. Jackson, whose widow sold them to Mrs. Clark.

Berwick Berners is a hamlet in the parish, but they choose a constable of their own; the house is above a mile north-east of the church. It anciently belonged to the noble family of Berners, from whence it took its additional name. Ralph Berners, in 1297, held the manor. Sir John Berners, in 1475, sold it to Sir William Capel. It was, after having continued in the Capels many years, sold to Sir Robert Abdy, Bart., who disposed of it to Thomas Brand, Esq., of Fifield.

The church is dedicated to St. Edmund, and is of one pace with the chancel. It has a small wooden turret, with a spire. The rectory appears to have been appendant to the manor of Abbess-hall, and was in the gift of Barking abbey till the dissolution. After which it was held by Sir Ralph Fane in 1550, and by John Gate, Esq., in 1552. William Glasscock had it in 1579: from him it came to his son, and then to the Capel family; from whom it passed through several hands. The parish is rated to the land-tax at 438*l.* 1*s.*, and Berwick Berners hamlet at 276*l.*

L A V E R.

LAVER is a general name for three contiguous parishes here, distinguished from each other by the names of High, Magdalen, and Little.

High Laver is otherwise styled in records Great Laver, and King's Laver. In the Confessor's reign it belonged to Aluvin, a freeman, and Brictmar. At the time of the survey it belonged to Eustace de Boulogne. There are two manors in the parish; that of High Laver and Oats, or Otes.

The manor of High Laver has a mansion-house, which stands behind the church.

The

The manor having descended to Euface's grand-daughter Maud, queen of king Stephen, remained in the crown till Henry II.'s reign; who gave it to William Fitz-Aucher. The abbess of St. Sulpitius, in Berry, claimed this manor, as assigned to her by Richard son of Henry Fitz-Aucher. She founded her claim upon a grant of William Earl of Boulogne, son of king Stephen, who she pretended had given it to her church. At length, in 1237, it was agreed between the abbess at that time and Richard son of Henry Fitz-Aucher, that he should enjoy this manor and appurtenances by the service of a fourth part of a knight's fee, and pay the abbess and her successors 10*l.* per annum. This was settled by fine. Joan afterwards, another abbess, granted this 10*l.* rent to Waltham abbey, which Stephen, son of Richard the son of Henry, was to pay; and from that time the Auchers held of the abbey of Waltham. It was for some years in the noble family of Ferrars, of Groby, and in Richard Prior, Esq., in 1438 and 1452. Walter Writell, Esq., of the neighbouring parish of Bobbingworth, at the time of his death, in 1475, held this manor of High Laver, with the advowson. He possessed it some years. Sir Thomas Walsingham, who married the daughter of Walter Writell, and died in 1583, held the manor. Arthur Stanlake had it after this family. In the last century it came to two heiresses. Mary, daughter of Richard Matthews, citizen of London, brought one moiety in marriage to her husband Samuel Beachcroft, Esq. The other moiety was enjoyed between Lewis Scawen, Esq., and Mr. Richard Merry, merchant, of London, who married the daughter of Abraham Foster, Esq., of Eltham, in Kent, who had the other coheirefs for his wife.

The manor of Otes, according to tradition, took its name from John Otes, who, with others, held the manor of Little Laver of the Lord Scales, in the time of Edward II. The manor-house stands about a mile and a half north of the church. The estate seems to have been divided about the year 1486, or before, between Sir John Suliard and John Pickenham, Esq. Sir John Suliard, one of the justices of the King's Bench, who died in 1487, held a moiety of the manor of Otes, in High Laver, of Edward Duke of Buckingham, of his manor of Chipping Ongar. Robert Garneys, Esq., cousin of Sir William Suliard, who died in 1539, succeeded to it next, and Euface Suliard again after him, in 1546, held a moiety of the manor. About 1600 it was purchased by Sir William Masham. In 1499 George Pickenham, Esq., held a moiety of the manor of the Earl of Oxford. The estate was also further subdivided. The celebrated Locke spent much of his time here during the

latter part of his life; as appears from the dates of his letters; where he was treated with the greatest civility by Sir Francis Masham and his lady. He died here in 1704, and was buried in the south side of the churchyard, under a black marble stone, enclosed with strong iron rails; and on the wall of the church above is an epitaph, which is printed in his works.

The church, which is dedicated to All Saints, is of one pace with the chancel. The steeple is covered with a lofty shingled spire. The rectory was a long time appendant on the manor of High Laver. It has since passed by purchase into several different families. The land-tax is 895*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.*

MAGDALEN LAVER.

MAGDALEN LAVER is so named from the dedication of the church to St. Mary Magdalen. In the time of the Saxons it belonged to Sexi; and at the time of the survey to Ralph de Toden, and his undertenant Roger. There is but one manor; and the mansion-house stands near the church. Robert de Burnaville, and John de Angerville, John de Montpyneon and Arabella his wife, were the earliest possessors, in the reign of Henry III.: the two first were enfeoffed by Jane their grandmother. In 1320 a fine passed between Humphrey de Waldene, plaintiff, and John son of Robert de Burnaud, for this manor and the advowson of the church. And Humphrey, in 1331, at the time of his death, held them of Sir Hugh de Audele, and Margaret his wife, daughter and coheirs of Gilbert Earl of Clare. Andrew, son of his brother Roger, was his heir, and was succeeded, having no issue, by Thomas Bataile, son of his sister Alice; who, dying in 1439, left John his son and heir; Sir Thomas Cook had it next, and his family; but in the mean time it was possessed by some of the families of Ayloffe and Barrington; it reverted however to the Cook family till 1506. It was next in the family of Aylett. John Aylett, Esq., of White Roding, in 1664, was a great sufferer for king Charles I.: he spent 700*l.* per annum in that king's service; raised a troop of horse at his own expence, and was in many engagements during the war. He was one of the commanders at the siege of Colchester, and was sentenced to be shot, but escaped in a female disguise. He was retaken, however, and purchased his life of the parliament for 460*l.*; and had a pardon granted to him. He received a commission afterwards from Charles II. to surprise Chepstow castle, in Monmouthshire, and to be governor of it; there

he was betrayed and made prisoner, till the Restoration set him at liberty. He probably took up his residence at Roding, within view of his lost estate.

In 1662 John Throckmorton, Esq., presented to the rectory, from whence it may be concluded that he possessed the manor. The estate was purchased of one of the Throckmortons by William Cole, Esq., sheriff of Essex in 1716.

The church is of one pace of equal breadth with the chancel. The rectory was always appendant to the manor. The parish is rated to the land-tax at 749*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*

LITTLE LAVER.

LITTLE LAVER, in the time of the Saxons, and at the Conquest, was comprehended under one of the two other manors; here are two manors, Little Laver-hall and the manor of Enfield, or Enville.

The manor-house, Little Laver-hall, stands near a mile from the church. About the year 1200, Eustace de Lagefare passed this estate, by fine, to Ralph de Roucester: Ralph had issue William, Peter, and Alice; upon the death of William, in the reign of Henry III., Peter inherited; and, he having no issue, it came to Alice, who carried it to her husband Robert de Scales: he died in 1324. The Bouchier family held it under the Lords Scales. Anne, sole heiress and daughter of Henry Bouchier, last Earl of Essex of this family, brought it in marriage to her husband, William Lord Parre; and he, in 1542, alienated this, otherwise called Bouchier's Hall, to Sir Richard Riche; of whom it was purchased by John Collyn, or Collen, of Roding Beauchamp: it continued in this family for many years, and was lately in Matthew Bluck, Esq., of Hunsdon, Hertfordshire, who purchased it of Collyn. It was sold by a decree in Chancery to Lord Marham.

The manor of Enfield, or Enville, appears to have been parted off from that of Laver-hall, about the time of Edward II.; for William de Enfield, who died in 1361, held lands here, and from him it derived its name. Ralph Tyle soon after had it in right of his wife. It was long in the family of Collins, of Roding Beauchamp, and purchased of one of their heirs by Mr. John Austrey, who settled it on his grandson Mr. John Evans, of Wood Street, London.

The church, which is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, is small, of one pace and of the same width with the chancel; the belfry stands in the middle of the church, with

with a shingled spire. The advowson of this rectory was in the crown, from the year 1313 to 1532. Silvester de Evendon put in a claim for it, but could not prove it. Henry VIII. granted it, in 1540, to John Coyes and his heirs; afterwards to Sir Richard Riche; from him it came to the Collyn family; and then to Lord Marsham. The land-tax is 485*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*

M O R E T O N.

MORETON was so called from two Saxon words, signifying a hill, or rising ground; and town, village, or farm. A brook runs between this place and Lavers, which falls into the Roding at Chipping Ongar. In the Confessor's reign the parish belonged to Sexi, and one freeman; at the time of the survey it was held by William Scobies. The next possessors upon record after him were the family De Abrincis, or D'Avranches, lords of Folkestone, in Kent. William de Avranches held it about the reign of king John, of his barony. He died about 1230, leaving Maud a great heiress. She was married to Hamo de Crevecœur, lord of Ledes, in Kent, descended from Hugh Dapifer. He died in 1262, and his grandson in 1296: the estate was then divided between four daughters, heiresses. The manor was held of the king in capite, by the serjeantry of finding one man with a horse, of the price of ten shillings, and four horse-shoes, a leather sack, and one iron fastening, whenever the king should happen to go into Wales; and to be at his own charge for forty days. From the partition of this estate arose the manors of Nether-hall, and Over-hall; and this serjeantry was performed by the owners of both.

Nether-hall, or Bouchier's-hall, has a mansion which stands near the south-east corner of the churchyard: the moiety came by marriage to the noble family of Bouchier. Robert Bouchier, who died in 1349, held it jointly with his son. Elizabeth Bouchier brought it in marriage to her two husbands, Sir Hugh Stafford, and Sir Lewis Robessart: but having no issue, it descended to Henry Bouchier Earl of Eu and Essex, who died in 1483. William Lord Parre, of Essex, by licence, in 1542, sold it to Richard Lord Riche. It continued in this family till it was purchased by Robert Bourne, Esq., of Blake-hall, in Bobbingworth; his daughter was married to Lord Digby: she dying without issue, Mr. Bourne settled the reversion. It belonged some time ago to Ambrose Page, one of the South Sea

Directors;

Directors; and it being sold by the Company, in 1724, was purchased for the sum of 2505*l.* by William Cole, Esq., from whom it passed to his two nephews.

The manor of Upper-hall, Over-hall, or Lady-hall, was one of the moieties into which the manor of Moreton was divided. The mansion-house is situated in the fields, a short way south-east of Nether-hall. It seems to have derived the name from Juliana, daughter and heiress of John de Sandwich, by Agnes eldest daughter of Hamo de Crevecœur. She was married to John de Seagrave, called Le Uncle, because he was uncle to John Lord Seagrave. This moiety he held by petit serjeantry. He died in 1343. Elizabeth, daughter of John Lord Seagrave, brought it in marriage to Thomas de Mowbray Duke of Norfolk: he died possessed of it in 1400. From the Mowbrays it came to the Howards. In 1538 Edmund Lord Howard alienated it to Thomas Duke of Norfolk. It next, as well as the other, belonged to Sir Richard Riche, and his son the Earl of Warwick: of some of their heirs it was purchased by Dr. Josias Woodward, after whose widow's and son's decease it came to Lewin Cholmondeley, a brewer, in Southwark, and then to his son. About 1336 John de Lenham, alias de Burndish, appears to have had a part of it; which his daughter brought to her husband John Gifford, of Bures; of Robert de Sandwich John Spencer held lands here, in 1356: as did Richard Edwards, John Scott, and other tenants. A farm called Stacies, and lands named Cross Lees, belonged lately to the Elford family. Here are some charities given to the parish, though small.

The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and is of one pace with the chancel. The tower, of brick, has a spire and five bells. It was given by William Scobies to the monastery of St. Stephen, at Caen, in Normandy, founded by the Conqueror; with the land and tithe belonging. Henry I. confirmed the grant, and a vicarage was ordained. Edward III. seized it as a priory alien, and parliament afterwards granted it to Henry V. Henry VI. endowing his college of Eton, settled on it a pension of eighteen marks from the vicarage of Moreton. It continued a vicarage till 1532, when Henry VIII. presented to the living as a rectory, and as such it has continued. He first granted the church and advowson to the Archbishop of Canterbury, and afterwards to Charles Brandon Duke of Suffolk; who, in 1538, by licence, sold it to Lord Riche, in whose family it continued, till it was purchased by St. John's college, Cambridge. The land-tax is rated at 843*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*

SHELLEY.

SHELLEY derived its name from two Saxon words, which signify a hedgehog and pleasant pasture. This small parish lies between Moreton and the Ongars, and contains only one manor. The manor-house of Shelley-hall stands near the church. Leuidai, in the Saxons' time, possessed this parish; which, at the time of the survey, belonged to Geoffrey de Mandeville. The next owner on record was Johanna, wife of Waleram de Munceus: her heirs, on her decease, in 1278, were Sir William de Cloyle, and Aveline wife of Roger de Lees. Aveline brought it into the family of Lees or Leighs, in which it continued till the reign of Henry VIII. Giles Leigh, Esq., in 1538, left two daughters coheiresses, Margaret and Agnes, married to two brothers, John and Christopher Alleyn; of them it was purchased by Sir Richard Riche. Robert Lord Riche sold it to John Green; it continued in this family till 1699, when it came to his two daughters, coheiresses. Sarah married first to Bernard Cotterell, filkman, of London, and afterwards to John Baker, Gent. of Blackmore. Mary, the other daughter, was wife of the Rev. Andrew Trebeck, late rector of St. George's, Hanover Square.

Burnish-hall is a capital messuage in this parish, about half a mile north of the church; the lands of which extend partly into the parish of Moreton. It seems to be what is mentioned under the name Brundishe; it was so called from a family of that name. Sir Richard Riche died possessed of it in 1566, and it continued some years in his descendants, the Earls of Warwick. It belonged some years since to John Lingard, Esq., common serjeant of the city of London; and upon his decease it came among his daughters and heirs.

The church, dedicated to St. Peter, is of one pace with the chancel. It has a shingled spire. The rectory has been always appendant on the manor. The land-tax is 444*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*

BOBBINGWORTH.

BOBBINGWORTH lies to the west of Shelley, and seems to have been so called from an ancient owner, named Bobbing, and a farm or hall. In the Confessor's reign two freemen possessed the parish; at the time of the survey it was held by Ralph, brother of Ilger. There are two manors in it, Bobbingworth-hall and Blake-hall.

Bobbingworth-

Bobbingworth-hall stands a short way south-west of the church. The next owner of the estate was after Ralph, Henry Spigurnell, who died in 1328. He held the manor and advowson of the church of William Bohun by service of half a knight's fee. In 1339 Sir Thomas Spigurnell granted it to Robert de Hakeney, citizen of London, and his wife Catharine, and their heirs. This manor was purchased in 1403 by Sir John Asheles; and in 1423 William Asheles of Thaxted sold it to John de Vere Earl of Oxford, Sir Reginald West, Nicholas Thorley, Richard Wentworth, and Richard Arden. They conveyed the premises in 1446 to Sir Thomas Tyrell, Sir Peter Arden, and others; and in 1664 they were purchased by Walter Writell, Esq.: he was descended of a very ancient family in this county, Ralph de Fitz Ralph, Esq., to whom Margaret Countess of Galway gave the manor of Writtle in this county, and from whence he took the surname of Writtle. He was sheriff of Essex and Hertfordshire in 1469 and 1471, and was buried in this church. In 1510 there was a partition made of this estate between the coheirs of Writell, James and Eleanor Walsingham, and Edward and Grifild Waldegrave; and in 1575 there was another partition between James Walsingham and his wife, and John Rochester and his wife, whereby the living became alternately presented. In 1586 Rochester's part of the hall was purchased by John Pool. His descendants dwelt in the hall till 1708. Walsingham's part, which was land only, was purchased of Sir Thomas and Sir Andrew Walsingham by Robert Bourne of Blake-hall. The two moieties were afterwards purchased by the Houblon family.

Blake-hall stands about half a mile south-east of the church. It now has only the title of a manor without court or tenants. It was originally held of the honour of Clare, formerly by Robert de Hastings, of the honour of Marescall, and then by John de Londres. Sir Robert Brent, who died in 1420, held this manor. It afterwards belonged to — Thompson, and in 1516 to Sir William Capel, who held it of Catharine queen of England as of the manor of Clare. Sir Robert Riche had it afterwards, and then John Waylett, of whom John Glasscock purchased it in 1592, and paid 4*l.* ingreſs fine. He in 1598 sold it to Robert Bourne, Gent. Dorothy Thompson and Ann Fowler possessed the estate, daughters of the sister of Lord Digby, who had married Alice daughter of Robert Bourne. In 1709 they sold it to John Clark, Esq., and from him it came to Richard Clark, Esq. his son. An estate called Bobbingford, alias Monkis, consisting of one messuage and 200 acres of land in this parish and others, belonged in 1496 to John Biddleſdon. There are also

other estates in the parish. In 1639 a composition was paid to the king for disforesting some lands, and 481 acres of this parish.

The church, dedicated to St. Germain, is of one pace with the chancel; the steeple, having on the top a spire shingled, contains four bells.

The rectory was anciently in the gift of the families of King, and of Thorley, and other lords of Bobbingworth-hall. It afterwards belonged to Sir John Archer, Knight, and to James Lordell, now to — Houblon, Esq. The land-tax is 899*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.*

NORTH WEALD.

NORTH WEALD is so called to distinguish it from South Weald, from which it stands northerly, and signifies North Wood. Bassett is added to the name, because it belonged formerly to a branch of that noble family. It is also called Netherweld. In the reign of Henry II. it belonged to Henry de Essex, whose grandson granted it to Philip Bassett, who died in 1271. Aliva, his daughter and heiress, married first Roger Bigod, and afterwards Hugh le Despencer. Her son Hugh le Despencer held this manor of John de Bensted in 1324: but Roger Bigod Earl of Norfolk giving up his estates to the crown, king Edward II. granted this among the rest to his brother Edmund Plantagenet Earl of Kent, to hold by the yearly gift of one sparrowhawk: for having endeavoured to release the king his brother from his imprisonment, he was attainted and executed in 1330, and his estate given to Bartholomew de Burghersh for life: but Edmund's attainder being reversed, his son John Plantagenet, Earl of Kent, enjoyed the estate as part of his earldom, when, dying in 1352 without issue, it descended to his sister Joan, the fair maid of Kent, married first to William Montacute Earl of Salisbury, next to Thomas Holland Earl of Kent, and then to Edward the Black Prince. Upon her death in 1385 it descended to her son, Thomas Holland Earl of Kent. His sister Eleanor brought it in marriage to her husband Thomas Montacute Earl of Salisbury, who died in 1428; and then it came to her daughter Alice, wife of Richard Nevill Earl of Salisbury. She died in 1462. He was slain at the battle of Barnet-field in 1471; his eldest daughter and coheirs, Isabel, wife of George Plantagenet Duke of Clarence, held it at the time of his death in 1476. Margaret their daughter, widow of Sir Richard Pole, obtained it in 1513; but her fatal end in 1541 is well known. This estate coming to the crown, Henry VIII. in

1543 granted the manor of North Weald to Richard Higham and his heirs. He in 1544 alienated it to Sir Richard Riche, who in the same year conveyed it to his second son: from this noble family, after some years, it passed into that of Cheke of Pergo. In 1721 Letitia, widow of Thomas Cheke, died possessed of it. Lady Tipping, her daughter, enjoyed it next; and upon her death in 1728 it came to her youngest daughter Catharine, who married Thomas Lord Archer.

This manor had formerly a park; and there are some fields on the south-west of the house called Park-fields. From this manor two others have arisen, named Marshalls and Cannes.

The manor of Marshalls was so named from Roger Bigod, earl marshal, first husband of Aliva Basset. William Fitz-William of Milton in Northamptonshire, Knight, who died in 1534, held the manor of Marshalls. The mansion-house, which is now demolished, stood within a moat; a family named Larder inhabited it not long since. Walter Larder, his wife and children, were buried here in the beginning of the last century. This estate was once in the Searle family, but it lately came to John Archer, Esq. of Cooperale. In 1570 John Smyth of Epping held of John Searle a manor or messuage called Welbridge. This Welbridge farm belonged lately to John Stokes.

The manor of Cawnes or Cannes belongs to Merton College, Oxford, and has for many years been held by lease by the family of Binckes. In 1631 Richard Spranger held of this manor a parcel of land called Arnot-croft, in North Weald, in free socage.

The manor of Paris has likewise been placed by some in this parish. Such a manor appears by the records to extend into this parish; but the chief part of it lies in the parishes of Harlow, Latten, and Theydon Gernon. It was held of John Writell, Esq. as of his manor of Hastlyns, and belonged to the Shaa family. Alice, daughter of Edward Shaa, brought it to her husband William Poley, Esq., who, at the time of his death in 1587, held this manor of George Colt, Esq. In 1593 Sir John Poley died possessed of it; of his son, it was purchased by Mr. Fuller of Coggeshall, clothier, from whom it descended to Mr. William Fuller.

Whealers is an estate in this parish, about half a mile south-west of the church, which belonged to the Rev. Simon Lynch, vicar of this parish. His daughter sold it to John Searle, Gent. There are other lands in this parish.

Simon Thorowgood in 1635 devised by will the sum of 50*l.* towards building a

grammar-school-house in this parish, and gave to trustees 10*l.* a year as an annuity for a schoolmaster, payable out of his lands called Harts-grove in Barking, for instructing the children of this and the adjoining towns. Through some neglect this donation lied dormant about forty years till 1678, when, by a commission of charitable uses, it was recovered and settled as it now stands. A school is kept, and the endowment well paid.

The church, dedicated to St. Andrew, consists of a body and south aisle, at the upper end of which is a chapel. The tower is embattled. This church, by the name of Walde, was given to the priory of Clerkenwell in London by Cicely de Essex, with the patronage of it, and all its tithes and appurtenances. The great tithes were afterwards appropriated to that priory, and a vicarage ordained, of which the bishop of London reserved the collation to himself and his successors, and they continued without interruption till 1483: but the nunnery of Clerkenwell claiming a right to the patronage, after many controversies, it was decided that the presentation should be alternate between the bishop of London and the owner of the impropriate tithes; and so it has ever since continued. After the dissolution the rectory was granted in 1559 to William Doddington. It is a manor, and was many years since reckoned worth about 200*l.* per annum. John Searle had it, and conveyed it to George Finch, who married his daughter: the latter sold it to William Plummer, Esq., late representative for the county of Herts, and it remained in his family. One of the Searle family left a distribution to the poor out of the rectory, the value of 36 bushels of grain, wheat, barley, peas, and malt; or the value in money. The manor of North Weald had anciently a free chapel, in the disposal of the lord. The vicar, besides the small tithes, is endowed with a third part of corn and hay, but pays to the rector four marks yearly. It is rated to the land-tax at 1145*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*

GREENSTED.

GREENSTED signifies Green-place; it has generally the addition of Near Ongar to distinguish it from the other near Colchester. In the Confessor's reign Gotild was possessed of this manor, which at the time of the survey belonged to Hamo Dapifer. Searle had 40 acres of this manor; and three freemen in the Saxons' time had enjoyed half a hide and 45 acres, and Ralph de Marci had half a hide and 5 acres

5 acres at the survey. Hamo Dapifer dying without issue, his lands descended to his brother Robert Fitz-Hamo, to whom William Rufus gave the honour of Gloucester. He died in 1107; his eldest daughter Maud married Robert, natural son of Henry I., to whom she brought her uncle Hamo's large inheritance. He died in 1147. Whether king Stephen took this estate from him for his strong adherence to his competitor the empress Maud, does not appear; but William, king Stephen's son, gave Greensted, together with Chipping Ongar, to Richard de Lucy. From the Lucy's it came to the family of Rivers, and from them to William de la Hay, though we are not informed by what means. From him it came to the noble family of Stafford, under which it was held by the family of Bouchier, mentioned already under Moreton. In 1349 Robert Burgcher, at the time of his decease, held a tenement in Greensted, with the advowson of the church of Ralph Baron de Stafford, as of the manor of Aungre or Ongar. Hugh Lord Stafford, who married Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Bartholomew Lord Bouchier, had this manor. Sir Lewis Robepart, second husband of this Elizabeth, had it; she possessed it at the time of her decease in 1433. Henry Bouchier Earl of Essex, who had the estate in 1483, held the manor of Henry Lord Stafford, Earl of Hereford and Northampton. His grandson and successor, Henry Earl of Essex, being killed by a fall from his horse in 1540, this, with the rest of his great estates, came to his only daughter and heiress Anne, who married William Lord Parr, afterwards Marquis of Northampton: she possessed the manor and advowson of the church: she died in 1570. But previous to this date the estate was purchased by Sir Richard Riche, who presented to the rectory in 1548 and 1566. The estate was afterwards in the possession of William Bourne, Gent., of the neighbouring parish of Bobbingworth; he presented to the living in 1593; and next in the Young family, who presented from 1617 to 1661. Mr. Gulton afterwards enjoyed the estate, and sold it to Mr. Alexander Cleeve, citizen of London. He died in 1738. It then came to David Rebotier, Esq. Greensted-hall stands a short way from the church to the east, and is the seat and property of Craven Ord, Esq.: it is a neat modern building.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Andrew, is small, that and the chancel being of one pace. It is a remarkably ancient building, for the walls are of timber, not framed, but trees split, or sawed asunder, and set into the ground. The Society of Antiquaries has a print of it engraved. This church was by act of parliament in 1548 consolidated and united to that of Chipping Ongar, it being not more than

6l. in the king's books. The advowson of Ongar was invested in the patron of Greensted. But this consolidation was dissolved in 1554 by act of parliament. The rectory was for some years appendant on the manor; it was some time since purchased by Mr. Pratt, minister of St. Botolph's, Aldgate; and so settled, that upon every vacancy it is to be given to the curate of that church. There are 28 acres of glebe belonging to it. The parish is rated to the land-tax at 328l. 3s.

STANFORD RIVERS.

STANFORD RIVERS derives its name from a stony ford; which name was given to this parish because there was a ford through the river Roding, which ran here with a very strong current: it was paved with stone after the manner of the Romans, who raised a pavement in many of the rivers of Britain to make the passage more shallow, and save the expence of a bridge. The addition of Rivers is from a family of that name, ancient owners, to distinguish it from Stanford le Hope.

Stanford-hall stands a short way north-east of the church. In the Confessor's time the possessors were Aluin and freemen: Eustace Earl of Boulogne had it at the time of the survey. Part of it then was called Little Stanford. Eustace's grand-daughter Maud brought it in marriage to her husband Stephen Earl of Blois, afterwards king of England. Her son William Earl of Morton and Surrey gave this lordship to Richard de Lucy. It continued in that family till 1213, when by marriage it came to Richard de Rivers. From that family it came into the noble family of Stafford. It came to the crown upon the attainders of Henry and Edward Dukes of Buckingham. In 1524 Henry VIII. granted to William Cary, Esq. and his wife this manor among others; the estate belonged afterwards to William Lord Petre, in whose family it now remains.

Belhouse, about half a mile south-west of the church, has been chiefly the seat and residence of the Petre family in this parish. In ancient records it is written Gelhowes, and called a manor: Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Philip Malpas, citizen and clothier of London, and widow of Sir Thomas Cook, held at the time of her death this manor of the Earl of Wiltshire in 1484, as of his manor of Stanford Rivers. Philip Cook was her son and heir. In 1524 it belonged to Robert Troblefield, and came after that into the Petre family.

Berwick, Cawnes or Cadnes, are two other reputed manors, partly in this parish. John Skrene in 1541 held them, and Richard Harper in 1517. They are now incorporated with the above estates.

Littlebury and Rockenhoe is another manor, of which the mansion-house stands about three quarters of a mile east of the church; but most of the lands lie in the parish of High Ongar. In 1528 Richard Salinge held this manor of Catharine Queen of England, as of her manor of Anstye. In the last century it belonged to John Attwood, Esq. Mrs. Sarah Bull purchased this estate of that family: she died in 1694. It has since that time continued in that family.

Here was formerly a park, which Humphrey de Waleden held in 1331 of the King of the honour of Boulogne as part of the manor of Stanford Rivers.

William Green, citizen and merchant taylor of London, gave to twelve of the poorest inhabitants 40s. a year, payable from certain lands and tenements in St. Botolph's, Aldgate, London. The time of the donation is not known. Here is also a payment of 10s. per annum from lands called Knights in this parish for the benefit of poor folk's marriages.

The church is dedicated to St. Margaret, and is of one pace with the chancel; and both are of almost an equal breadth. It has a spire.

This valuable rectory was from the first in the gift of the crown. Queen Mary first annexing to the Duchy of Lancaster in 1558 the lordships and manors of Stanford-rivers, Stanford-hall, and others, from that time the advowson of the rectory has been in the hands of the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. The parish is rated to the land-tax at 2667l.

THEYDON.

THEYDON takes its name from two Saxon words, which signify Thegn's Hill; whence it is most probable that this district was originally the extensive lordship of some Saxon Thane, as the word imports, and was then but one lordship. When afterwards divided into three, they became styled, for the sake of distinction, Ad Montem, Gernon, and Bois. But that distinction was not known at the time of the general survey.

Theydon-mount is the part which belonged to Codric in the time of the Confessor, and was one of the lordships which William the Conqueror bestowed on Sweyn of

Essex.

Essex. Henry of Essex, Constable of Henry II., held it next, who, for throwing down the standard in a battle with the Welsh in 1163, which occasioned the defeat of the English, was deprived of all his estates. In 1210 Henry de Theydon held three knights fees here. The estate was soon after in the possession of Lord Robert de Bruys, in exchange for other lands which he had yielded to Robert de Waleran. John de Lexenton afterwards held the manor. He had licence in 1250 to make a park in Theydon. His brother and heir dying in 1258, his nephews, William de Sutton and Richard de Markham, succeeded. This manor being a very fine one, and lying contiguous to Stapleford Tany, Richard de Tany the younger obtained a pretended and fraudulent grant of it, and, under pretence of that grant, seized some lands in the parish belonging to Robert de Sutton, the king's enemy, during the wars between him and his barons. The Sutton family appears to have been restored very soon after, and even to have held the manor and advowson of Bruys. They kept possession of it till 1331, when John de Sutton, Lord of Dudley, granted the manor and advowson for twelve years to Henry de Malyns. It continued with them till about 1432. The estate came next to the family of Hampden, in an age when there were so many confiscations during the wars of York and Lancaster, that the period of its continuance with them is involved in obscurity.

Sir Thomas Smith purchased the reversion of this estate, which he had by his wife, the widow of Sir John Hampden. He was a most excellent orator, mathematician, and philosopher. He was secretary of state, and a most accomplished scholar; and died in 1577, and was buried in the chancel of the church. He had two brothers: the estate continued in the family.

Hill-hall, the family seat, was built by Sir Thomas Smith, and stands on a hill, whence it derived its name. Sir Thomas called it in French Mont-haut. He began the stately building near the old house; and as he did not live long enough to finish it, made provision in his will to have it completed. The house is quadrangular, with very strong and thick walls, adorned with great columns in imitation of stone; and the court is paved with freestone: it has a delightful prospect on all sides, especially towards the south and west. The entrance to it is from the north, along an avenue of great length and suitable breadth; on each side of which are rows of stately elms and other plantations. Great alterations were made in it during the last century by Sir Edward Smith, and many more by his successors. Sir Richard Glynn and others have estates in the parish.

The

The church, which is very pleasantly situated, is dedicated to St. Michael; it was burnt by lightning, and rebuilt by the first Sir William Smith. It is of one pace with the chancel. The tower is of brick, and has a spire shingled. The rectory has been always appendant on the manor. The parish is rated to the land-tax at 985*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.*

THEYDON GERNON.

THEYDON GERNON derived its name from a branch of the Gernon family. Robert Gernon, or Grenon, as it is written frequently in the Domesday-book, was one of those chiefs who accompanied William the Conqueror in his expedition into England, and was amply rewarded by him, particularly with thirty-one lordships in this county. He had two sons, William and Robert; William was of Stansted; and dropping the surname of Gernon, took that of Montfichet, from the raised mount on which his castle stood. In the Confessor's reign it belonged to Ulmar: but at the time of the survey it was held by Eudo Dapifer. Paulinus de Theydon and Henry de Theydon had it in Henry III.'s reign; and Paulinus had a fair and market here. Ralph de Gernon had it in 1247, when he died. Adam de Welles, who died in 1345, held the manor of Thomas Gernon, by the service of 7*s.* per annum. In 1461 Leo de Welles was killed at Towton-field fighting for King Henry VI., whereby his estates were confiscated by Edward IV. The estate thus escheating to the crown, appears to have been divided.

The mansion-house of the manor of Theydon Gernon, called Garnish-hall, stands about half a mile north-west of the church. After the above attainder the next possessor of the estate was Francis Hampden, Esq. in right of his wife in 1507 and 1535. He was a branch of the neighbouring Hampdens of Theydon-mount. He had only daughters coheiresses; one of them, married to Edward Bishop, Gent., held this manor in 1544. Ellen, wife of John Branche, citizen and merchant of London; she died in 1567, and held the manor. Her son John Branche had it next. Sir Daniel Dun, Knight, eldest son of Anne, sister of the above, held it; he died in 1617. Ralph Sheldon, Esq., of Ditchford in Warwickshire, married Elizabeth, only daughter and heiress of the last of the Dun family, who possessed it. About the year 1660 it was purchased by Sir Richard Abdy, Knight and Baronet, of Albins in Stapleford, and since that time has continued in his posterity.

Park-hall, or Gains-park, was in possession of Robert Gernon, who obtained leave of Henry III. to enclose his wood of Theydon for a park, called Le Geyt ; which park gave name to this estate. The mansion-house stood about two miles north-east of the church, but is now pulled down. The noble family of Welles was possessed of this manor. Upon the forfeiture of Leo, Edward IV. granted it to his own second daughter Cecily, wife of John Lord Welles. The estate was next in the possession of Sir William Fitz-William, citizen of London, and alderman in 1506. It remained in this family a considerable time. In 1617 Sir Richard Wingfield, Knight, held the manor of Park-hall ; and about 1636 — Harrison, Esq. held it. The Earls of Anglesea have since been the possessors of this estate.

Coopersale is a capital house, about two miles north of the church. The name does not occur before the reign of James I. ; it was most probably originally Cooper's-hall. It was a considerable time the residence of the Archer family. This family derives itself from Simon de Bois, who attended Henry V. at the battle of Agincourt. The occasion of his changing his name was this : At a shooting-match with king Henry at Havering-atte-bower, he performed so well, that the king ordered his name to be that of Archer. The estate went through his family in succession, till John dying without issue, Eleanor his sister inherited. She was the first wife of Sir Walter Wrottesley, Bart. of Wrottesley in Shropshire, and left an only daughter Eleanor, upon whom her uncle Archer settled the estate : she married William Eyres, Esq. A feat which belonged to Jernegan Cleveley, Esq., is also in this parish.

The church, dedicated to All Saints, consists of a body and north aisle. The chancel is of one pace with the church. The rectory was originally in the gift of the Gernon family. In 1458 John Prince, who married Elizabeth of this family, had a nephew of that name who succeeded him. How it passed to the succeeding patrons does not appear ; but it is appendant to the manor of Gernon, alias Garnish-hall ; has been in the Abdy family since the year 1660, and is now in the heirs of Sir Robert Abdy, Bart., of Albins. The parish is rated to the land-tax at 2159*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.*

THEYDON BOIS.

THEYDON BOIS is the most southern, and the least of these three parishes; the addition of Bois, which in French signifies wood, was annexed to the name, either because it stood more among the woods than the others; or it was received from some ancient possessors of the name. In the Confessor's reign, Hacun and Uluuin and seven freemen enjoyed the parish, which was held at the time of the survey by Peter de Valoines. The manor afterwards belonged to John de Tany, son of Sir Peter, who gave it in the reign of Henry III. to Waltham-abbey: they continued in possession of it till the suppression, when it was valued at 8*l.* per annum. The demesnes of this manor were then very extensive, but have since been much lessened, as the owners have sold off considerable portions from time to time. The estate remained in the crown till 1551, when Edward VI. granted it to Sir Thomas Wrothe, of Loughton. It continued in this family some time, till it was purchased by Edward Elrington, who before had the manor in this parish of Birch-hall.

Birch-hall mansion-house stands on a hill, on the road from Waltham-abbey to Affe-bridge. The Elrington family have resided here since they came into possession of the great tithes of the parish. About the year 1656 this family sold all their estates here to John Smart of London, merchant: they were afterwards purchased by Robert Meggott, Esq., who died in 1721: he left a son and a daughter. Smart Lethieullier, Esq., bought one of them; but since his death his heirs have sold it to John Hopkins, Esq., of Hornchurch. There is no court kept at Theydon-hall, but at Birch-hall, and sometimes on Theydon-green.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and is of one pace with the chancel; a small wooden turret, with a spire shingled, contains three bells. The church was given by William de Bosco to the priory of St. Bartholomew's, West Smithfield, and confirmed in 1253 by Henry III.'s charter. They presented to it twice as a rectory, and then the whole tithes were appropriated to them; it then became a curacy, and so continues, being supplied by such clergymen as the impropriator nominates, and the bishop licences. It is augmented by Queen Anne's bounty. The tithes after the dissolution were granted by Henry VIII. in 1543 to Edward Elrington above mentioned. He was chief butler of England to Edward VI., Queen Mary and Elizabeth. It continued in his posterity, with the rest of the parish, till 1656, when it was sold to John Smart, Esq., and has passed with the rest of the estates. This parish is rated to the land-tax at 98*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.*

LOUGHTON.

THE name of this parish is derived from the Saxon words, which signify an enclosure, and a town or village; or perhaps from the word low. It is one of the seventeen lordships with which Earl Harold endowed his monastery of Waltham. It is entered at first in Domesday-book under Becontree hundred. The estate continued in the canons of Waltham Holy-cross till their suppression, when it came to the crown, being then valued at 46*l.* per annum. In 1558 Queen Mary annexed the lordship and manor of Lughton, with several others, to the duchy of Lancaster.

Loughton-hall manor-house stands near the church. In 1551 Edward VI. granted this manor and the advowson of the church, among many others, to Sir Thomas D'Arcy and his heirs. It was again in the crown in 1569. The Wrothe family, mentioned above in Theydon Bois, soon after became possessed of it by the marriage of Susan, daughter of Francis Stonard, Gent., of this place. This family had been seated here some time. John Wrothe, Esq., who died in 1718, having no issue, left this estate to the Right Honourable William Henry Earl of Rochford. His lordship in 1745 sold it for the sum of 24,500*l.* to William Whitaker, Esq., of Lime-street, London, alderman, who settled this estate and manor on his second wife Anne, and after her death on his youngest daughter. It is reported, that in 1688 the Princess of Denmark, afterwards Queen Anne, retired to Loughton-hall, when she discovered the ill aspect of her father's affairs. There are other estates in this parish, which were in possession of Sir William Johnson, Sackville Bate, Esq., and others.

The church, dedicated to St. Nicholas, consists of a body and north aisle, the length both of the church and chancel. It has a shingled spire.

The rectory belonged to Waltham-abbey till the dissolution: after that, in 1554, George Stonard and Edward Stacy once presented by virtue of a turn granted to them from the abbey: the crown presented next from 1555 to 1609: then it came into the Wrothe family, and afterwards to Mrs. Whitaker. Loughton parish is rated to the land-tax at 1688*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.*

CHIGWELL.

IN the ancient records this place is called CINGWELLA, supposed to mean the King's Well. It is in the most southern part of the hundred of Ongar. In ancient times it was part of the royal demesnes. It is about ten miles and a half from London on the Ongar road. The parish is bounded on the east by Lambourn, north-east by Loughton, north by Chingford, west by Woodford, south-west by Barking, and south by Dagenham. According to a survey which was made in 1611, it contains 2527 acres of cultivated land. The proportion of arable to pasture is about three to one. Its share of Epping and Hainault forest is very considerable; both of them are included in the ancient forest of Waltham. In the neighbourhood of the village the soil is a light gravel mixed with sand, and abounding with springs: a stiff clay without water predominates in other parts of the parish.

In this parish are three capital manors: Chigwell-hall, Barringtons or Rolls, and Wolston-hall.

The first, now called Chigwell-hall, was before the Conquest held by Earl Harold of Edward the Confessor. In the reign of William the Conqueror Ralph de Limeſei was in possession of it, whose great-grandson Alan granted it to Richard de Luci, and Ralph Briton had it from the latter. Richard de Luci granted it subsequently to William Goldyngſham at the petition of Briton; another grant was made at the request of Goldyngſham to Robert, son of Ralph Briton, to whom Goldyngſham granted this manor in fee and for ever. Homage was paid, and a sum of money each time given. This happened in the reign of Henry II.: the manor, however, appears to have continued for several generations in the family of Goldyngſhams, who held it under the Lords Fitzwalter. Sir Alexander Goldyngſham in 1382 had the royal licence to impark fifty acres of land in Waltham forest adjoining to his manor of Chigwell. It was next in the family of Bouchier; for John Lord Bouchier and Sir Bartholomew Bouchier had the advowson at the time. It proceeded next to the family of Mannock. John Mannock in 1476 died seised of it. George Mannock, his son and heir, sold it to Sir Thomas Audley and others for the use, as was supposed, of the crown. In 1538, it then being vested in the crown, it was leased to William Bolt. Edward VI. in 1550 granted it to Sir Thomas Wrothe; in his family it continued till 1669, when Sir William Hicks, Bart., purchased it; from

him it descended to Michael Hicks Beach, Esq. M.P., second son of Sir Howe Hicks, Bart. who enjoys it under the wills of Sir Harry Hicks and Michael Hicks, Esq.

Sir Harry Hicks sold Chigwell-hall, the manor-house and farm, to William Davy, Esq., treasurer of St. Luke's Hospital. James Urston, Esq., purchased it of his executors. — Moffat, Esq. purchased it of him; and Eliab Harvey, Esq., bought it of — Moffat, Esq.

West-hatch, a nominal manor, belonged also to the Goldyngs. In 1410 Sir Walter Goldyngham settled it, in default of issue of himself and wife Elizabeth, on Robert Writtle. Walter Writtle died seised of it in 1476. George Mannock had it in 1534; and he sold it to Sir Thomas Audley, together with the manor of Chigwell-hall: since which time it has passed through the same hands.

The manor-house, which is about a mile from the church on the Woodford road, was in 1673 the residence of Sir William Nutt, who died in that year. Sir Edward Walpole purchased it of John Crockatt, Esq., in the middle of the last century. George Curling, Esq., had it from the widow of Mr. Nutt. Mr. Curling sold it to Lady Hughes, relict of Sir Edward Hughes, K. B. A new house has been built near the site.

Barringtons, alias Rolls manor, is about a mile north of the church; the manor-house is called Rolls. In the reign of the Confessor it was supposed to have been held by Doth; and at the time of the Norman survey, under Robert Gernon, by Anschetill. It is uncertain how it came into the hands of De Vere; but about the reign of Stephen or Henry II. Alberie de Vere granted it to Sir Humphrey, son of Sir Eustace de Barrington: it continued in this family's possession till, being held under the Veres, Earls of Oxford, and called the manor of Chigwell, as late as the year 1537, when John Barrington died seised of it. Stephen Wiseman died seised of it in 1563, and Thomas Wiseman, Esq., in 1584. John Hawkins purchased it of another Thomas Wiseman, and about the middle of the seventeenth century a moiety of it was bought by Eliab Harvey, Esq., brother of the celebrated Dr. Harvey: the other moiety was in the Comyns family about 1695; and afterwards by intermarriage came to Sir Hugh Middleton, Bart., of whom it was purchased by the Harveys.

The manor of Woolston or Woolverstone, anciently called Ulferneſtern, was the property of Earl Harold. This appears to have been formerly a parish of itself, or

at least a very considerable hamlet, and since the Conquest united to Chigwell. At the time of the survey it was part of the royal demesnes, and was farmed by the king to the sheriff. After having continued for several years in the crown, it was granted by Henry II. to a family called de Sandford, who held it by serjeantcy to find a damsel for the purpose of waiting upon the queen on the day of her coronation. Hugh Earl of Oxford purchased the wardship and marriage of Alice, daughter and heiress of Gilbert de Sandford, of King Henry III., or of the Bishop of London, who perhaps had bought it of the king as a trustee for the earl: he bestowed her in marriage to his eldest son Robert, who succeeded him, and in right of his wife became Baron Sandford. By her, besides Robert his son and heir, he had a daughter Joan, who married William, eldest son of John Earl of Warren and Surrey, and had the reversion of this manor as part of her marriage portion. On the death of John Earl of Surrey, without issue, in 1347, this and his other estates devolved upon his sister Alice, wife of Edmund Earl of Arundel. The possessions of this family were twice forfeited by attainder, and afterwards restored, when Thomas Earl of Arundel died seized of the manor in 1414, when the inheritance came to his three sisters. Sir Rowland Lenthall, having married Margaret Fitz-Alan, left no issue at his death in 1451; his share was therefore divided between the Norfolk and Abergavenny families, who represented the other coheirs. John Duke of Norfolk was killed at the battle of Bosworth-field, and his estates forfeited. The whole manor being then vested in the crown, was granted about the middle of Henry VII.'s reign to William Scott, Esq., a descendant of Chief Justice Scott, who died in 1540. It continued in that family till 1780, when Robert, son of William Bodle, Esq., by Elizabeth, daughter of George Scott, Esq., who died in 1710, inherited it.

The manor-house stands about a mile and half east of the church.

The manor of Grange, or Barnes, belonged to the priory of Tilney. After the suppression it was granted by Henry VIII. in 1537 to Thomas Addington and his heirs, who sold it in 1554 to James Altham, Esq., and, doing it without a licence, was obliged to procure a pardon, as was Altham also for selling it without one to Anthony Browne, Esq.: he made it part of the endowment of his free grammar-school at Brentwood. It was formerly a hamlet, but now only a farm on Grange-hill.

Luxborough is about a mile south-west of the church. Till the beginning of the seventeenth century there is no account of the possessors or the name of this estate, when

Sir Robert Wrothe, dying in 1605, held the manor of Luxborough, &c. of the manor of Chigwell by fealty.

Of some of the heirs of his son the manor was purchased by Robert Knight, Esq. cashier of the South-Sea Company, who built here a very excellent house, called Luxborough-house; which was sold by the South-Sea Company, upon the estates being seized, to Sir Joseph Eyles; he died in 1740; and it was repurchased by Mr. Knight. His son, who succeeded to this estate, was in 1746 created an Irish peer, by the title of Baron Luxborough, and in 1763 Earl of Catherlough. In 1749 he sold the estate to James Crockatt, Esq., whose heirs alienated it to Sir Edward Walpole, K. B. Samuel Peach, Esq., bought it of Sir Edward, and he soon after disposed of it to Sir Edward Hughes, K. B. That celebrated naval officer made it his country residence, and died there in 1794: it then became the property of his widow.

Within this parish, in the forest, was an ancient palace, called Potteles, alias Langfords. As early as the year 1350 a purchase was made by the crown in the parish, and another of house and lands in 1477 by Edward IV. of Robert Langford. The king probably granted this house and lands to his brother the Duke of Clarence; for upon the death of that prince Potteles-place came to the crown. Sir John Risley was appointed keeper of the palace at Chigwell to Henry VIII. by that prince; and upon his death Sir William Compton had a grant of the place in 1513. William Lord Compton had a new grant from queen Elizabeth in 1596. In 1650 Sir Thomas Perient was possessed of the fee of this estate: it was called at that time the manor, or reputed manor of King's-place, alias Langfords. Henry Goodricke, Esq., having married Mary Ernle, a relation of Lady Perient, the estate was settled on her; and in 1658 conveyed by Henry Goodricke and his wife to William Livesay. In 1679 William Livesay the elder, and William Livesay the younger, made it over to Mrs. Elizabeth Colwall, widow. The trustees of Daniel Colwall, Esq., who died in 1707, conveyed it in 1716 to Percival Chandler, whose son in 1741 sold it to Oliver Marton, Esq. In 1759 it was purchased of Oliver Marton, Clerk, by Robert Jones, Esq., and thence it became the property of his grandson Robert Jones Adeane, Esq.

There was an estate in the parishes of Chigwell and Barking, called Buckhurst, alias Goldhurst, which Sir Walter Goldyngham settled on Robert Writtle. It descended, in all probability, with the manors of Chigwell-hall and West-hatch.

An estate also in this parish, and Woodford, called Buckhurst, alias Monkenhill, now Monkham, belonged to the abbot and convent of Stratford Langthorn, and was granted to John Lyon and his heirs in 1547. Lady Hughes last possessed it.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and consists of a body and north aisle. At the west end is a wooden belfry, with a spire. The south door is of Saxon architecture, with lozenge mouldings.

The advowson of the church of Chigwell, which is in the diocese of London and deanery of Ongar, was formerly annexed to the manor, and held together with it by the manor of Goldyngham. In 1350 the parson of Lambeth had licence to appropriate the church to the priory of Latton. In 1404 Bartholomew Lord Bourchier granted the church of Chigwell to John Doreward, who in 1439 gave it to the priory of St. Botolph in Colchester: and they procured a licence to appropriate it to themselves and successors; by virtue of which they twice appointed to the vicarage. But in 1451 and 1466 the rectors again used their right. Soon after Thomas Kemp, Bishop of London, founding a chantry in St. Paul's church, endowed it with the advowson of this church, and with lands here and at Clacton. In 1474 he appropriated to the priests of that chantry and confessor the prebend of St. Pancras, under which the great tithes are held upon a lease for three lives. In the beginning of the last century the lease was vested in Sir Joseph Eyles; it was afterwards purchased by James Crockatt, Esq., who in 1776 bequeathed it to his daughter Jane, wife of Sir Alexander Crawford. In 1791 a new lease was granted to Sir Alexander for the lives of his three children. Dr. Paley, the archdeacon of Carlisle, and prebendary of Pancras, of course as such was rector of Chigwell.

It appears that in former times a rector of this parish having a plurality of benefices, instituted here a vicarage, and gave it to his relation, allowing him half the profits of the rectory. This practice continued after his death: and in 1374 Henry Marmion, being then rector, a vicarage was endowed with a house and glebe, the usual vicarial tithes, and the tithes of certain water-mills. In 1440 the vicarage was valued at eighteen marks per annum. It was at that time rated in the king's books at 18*l*. Since its union with the prebend of Pancras it has been in the gift of the prebendary. Dr. Utey was ejected from this vicarage in the year 1641, in consequence of a petition from the inhabitants to Parliament, charging him with having erected an altar in the church, and performing the duty contrary to the laws of the established church. A printed copy of this petition is now in the British Museum.

In 1629 Archbishop Harinet founded two free-schools in the parish : he endowed them with the rectory of Tottington in Norfolk. The advowson of the vicarage was vested in feoffees, who were to present to a fit person educated at Chigwell school, or a native of the place. The vicar of Chigwell and rector of Loughton are always of the number with ten other persons. They elect the master. The Latin master must be a graduate of one of the universities, skilled in Greek and Latin, a good poet ; of sound religion, neither Papist nor Puritan ; of good behaviour ; of sober and honest conversation ; no tipler, nor haunter of ale-houses ; no puffer of tobacco, and apt to teach and severe in his government ; he is directed to teach Lilly's Latin Grammar and Cleonard's Greek Grammar ; for phrase and style to infuse into his scholars no other than Tully and Terence ; for poets to read the ancient Greek and Latin, no novelties or conceited modern authors. The qualifications for the other master are, that he write fair secretary and Roman hands ; that he be skilful in cyphering and casting accompts, and to teach his scholars the same. Twelve boys, natives of Chigwell, and six others from Loughton, Woodford, and Lambourn, are to be instructed gratis in the Latin school ; in the other school twelve children of Chigwell, with two from Woodford, Loughton, and Lambourn, are also to be educated. The plan was afterwards altered under the sanction of the Bishop of London. William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania, was educated at Chigwell. There is a charity-school for twelve girls, and alms-houses for three poor widows.

There is a spring near the windmill at Chigwell-row of a cathartic quality ; but it is now quite neglected. The parish is laid to the land-tax at 288*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*

L A M B O U R N.

THIS parish derives its name from two Saxon words, which signify a Lamb, or Dirt probably, and a Brook. The different manors and estates of this parish are set down in ancient records in a more confused manner than any others. In the Confessor's reign, the only possessor here upon record was Leffi ; and in the survey, the only one named is Eustace Earl of Boulogne. After him the oldest possessor here was Pharin de Boulogne ; and then Sibill de Fesnes about the year 1210.

Lambourn-hall, the mansion-house of the capital manor in this parish, stands at a short distance north of the church. It is now only a farm-house ; the owners have com-
monage,

monage, &c. in the forest. In the reign of King John, a family of the name of De Fefnes was possessed of this estate: but they soon disposed of it, or named themselves from the place; for in 1218 we find a lord of the name of Robert de Lamburn giving the rectory to Waltham-abbey. It continued in the Lambourn family till 1362, when William dying under age, was succeeded by his sister Joan, wife of Sir William Chene. Thomas Lampet held it about the reign of Henry IV.: till the year 1485 no account is handed down of this manor. John Curfon in that year held it of Jasper Duke of Bedford. It next came into the Barefoot family; which continued in possession of it till the beginning of the last century. Robert Barefoot, citizen and mercer of London, held the manor, &c. as of the hundred of Ongar, by suit of that hundred, and the service of wardstaff, to carry a load of straw with a cart and six horses, and two men in rapiers to watch the wardstaff when it was brought to the town of Abridge, and also to mend a certain quantity of the park-pale when need be, in lieu of all services. John Fortescue Aland, Esq. had it next to this family; he was created Baron Fortescue.

Shepes-hall is another manor here. Henry Spencer, the military Bishop of Norwich, in 1383, held this manor, called Shepes-hall of Norwich, of the prior of St. John of Jerusalem, and of Sir John Sutton, and of the king in capite. This martial prelate was bred up to the service of arms in Italy under Adrian the pope, in his wars with the Duke of Milan, and as a reward for his conduct and valour received from him the bishopric of Norwich in 1370. Having assembled a fleet, and transported an army into the Netherlands against the king's will, in order to punish those who had thrown off the authority of the pope; the parliament seized his temporalities and kept them two years; but they were at that time restored. He had been of great service to his king and country in 1381 during Wat Tyler's insurrection, and by stratagem and valour had subdued the malcontents, destroying great numbers of them, and making examples of their leaders. He quarrelled with the monks of Norwich, whom he humbled and obliged to purchase their peace at high and exorbitant terms. The Bishops of Norwich had lands in Lambourn till the Reformation, when they came into the possession of the Chancellor Audley, who alienated them in 1538 to William Hale; and he in 1555 again disposed of them to William Porter and others. Bishopshall was the house which belonged to the estate, about half a mile south-west of the church. It was lately the seat of Thomas Walker, Esq.,

surveyor-general to the king; upon whose death it came to his nephew Stephen Skynner, Esq. and his heirs.

Hunts, Affebridge, and Arneways, are other estates in this parish. The former took its name from John Hunt and his partners, who held half a fee in Lambourn under the Earls of Oxford in 1358 and 1370.

Affebridge or Abridge, a hamlet or manor here, took its name from the bridge over the river Rodon. This estate, or adjoining lands, were given to the knights hospitallers by Peter de Valoines and William de Bois. Arneways was so called from Adam de Arneway, who jointly with the Bishops of Norwich and Joane Pellican held half a fee here, under the Earls of Oxford, about the reign of Henry VI. But the Earls had a part of it in demesne within their manor of Stapleford Abbot. Sir William Fitz-William held land here of the manor of the Countess of Salisbury, and other lands of the Countess of Oxford. His son William Fitz-William succeeded him at his death in 1536. In 1552 Richard Morgan and Thomas Carpenter held the manor of Lambourn and Affebridge. Robert Taverner held them, and died in 1556. His son succeeded to them. The manors were in possession of Sir Robert Wrothe in 1605, and afterwards in the Peacock family. In Charles I.'s time Arneways belonged to Robert Draper, Esq. Mr. John Todd of Walthamstow held it lately. He gave a moiety to Mr. William Church, who married his daughter: their heir and daughter was married to Mr. Peter Searle, who brought it to him. Mr. Searle sold it to Mr. Scott of Woolston-hall, and then it went to his son.

The mansion-house of Arnolds is a large old timber building, a mile and half north-east of the church beyond Abridge. Lambourn Abridge, alias St. John's, is mentioned as another manor in this parish. In 1637 it belonged to Francis Peacocke, Esq.: from this family it went to Scott of Chigwell, and William Scott, Esq., gave it to his daughter in marriage with the Rev. Dr. Derham of Upminster. It is now only a farm, and is not reckoned a manor.

Deux-hall, or Dawes-hall, is another estate here. The first mention of it under that name is in 1505, when Reginald Rysmere held the manor of Edward Duke of Buckingham. In 1539 Sir William Sulyard held it, then described as 400 acres of arable and pasture. In 1621 it was in the family of Palmer: one of this family sold it to Catlyn Thorowgood, Esq., who was chief factor to the South-Sea Company at Porto-Bello and Vera-Cruz, and was sheriff of the county in 1729. His son

son sold it to Richard Lockwood, Esq., an eminent Turkey merchant, and member of parliament: he made a considerable addition to the old brick building with much taste; the new part makes the front, and is judiciously joined with the old. The seat stands a short way south of the church.

Priors is about a mile and half from Abridge: it most probably belonged to some priory. It was part of the estate of Henry Earl of Suffex, who in 1553 sold it to Robert Taverner, Esq. Robert Draper, Esq., had it at the time of his death in 1635, having bought it of the grandson of Robert Taverner, Esq. William Draper in 1641 sold it to Robert Bromfield, whose grandson by will gave it to his sister, wife of Nicholas Staphurst, M.D.; their son sold the estate to Dr. Thomas Tooke, rector of the parish. It continued in that family. The Luther family had formerly several parcels of land in the parish. In the parish are two alms-houses without endowment.

The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is of one pace with the chancel. At the west end is a spire. The building appears to be very ancient, as the north door is indented, and the pillars are of the Tuscan order. The church was given by Robert de Lambourn to the canons of Waltham Holy-cross, and confirmed to them by the Bishop of London in 1218. It continued a rectory till the dissolution of monasteries: then it came successively into the hands of Antony Cooke, Nicholas Bacon, Catherine Barefoot, who had a grant of one turn from the convent and abbey, Thomas Taverner, Robert Draper, Bromfield, and Staphurst. Dr. Tooke purchased the advowson of Nicholas Staphurst in 1712, and gave it to Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, of which he had been a fellow. They had the patronage after fifty years from his death; which right of presentation he reserved for his brother's family. He died in 1721. The parish is rated to the land-tax at 1413*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*

STAPLEFORD.

THERE are two contiguous parishes, named Stapleford, one on the south side, the other on the north side of the river Rodon. The name is derived from a Saxon word, signifying piles, which probably were used at the ford of the river for the convenience of passengers.

Stapleford Abbots is on the south side of the river, and so called, because it belonged to the abbot and convent of St. Edmund's Bury in Suffolk. The occasion of
its

its being given to the abbey is thus related. The body of Edward the Martyr was removed in the year 1010 to London from Bury on account of the Danes, who infested that part of the country. Three years after, upon the removal of it again back into Suffolk, the lord of the manor, who was languishing with illness, received it into his house; and being wonderfully recovered by this charitable action, he from gratitude gave this manor to the abbey, where St. Edmund's body rested. Such is the legendary story. In this parish are three manors: Stapleford-hall, Batailes, and Albins.

Stapleford-hall, the mansion-house of this capital manor, stands a short way south of the church. As before the Conquest it had belonged to St. Edmund's Bury, so it continued in it at the time of the survey; and they had the privilege here as at Harlow of being exempted from the regards of the forest. In 1540, upon the dissolution, this manor was granted to John Maynard; and in the same year he alienated it to Bryan Tooke, which grant was not executed, but a fresh one made to John Maynard. He had the advowson of the church with it, and Haman's grove, paying for it 400*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.* The estate again reverted to the crown, and has continued in it ever since; for which reason it is called Stapleford Regis. Grace Lady Carteret and Countess of Granville held it by lease of the crown till her death in 1744, and it then went to her son the Earl of Granville.

Batailes-hall, the manor-house, stands about a quarter of a mile west from the church. It took its name from a family of Batailes, who enjoyed it as early as the reign of Henry II. Five freemen possessed it in the time of the Saxons; but at the survey it formed part of the large estates of Robert Gernon. Margery, one of the coheirs and daughters of Sir Richard Bataile, whose family had held it long under the Gernons, marrying Sir William de Sutton, brought him with others this estate. He held them in 1302 of Giles de Plaiz, a descendant of the Gernons, who had taken the name of Montfichet. Thomas de Sutton dying without issue, Margery, daughter of Sir Richard de Sutton, who died in 1395, inherited these estates. She was the wife of John Walton, Esq. Richard Walton dying in 1408, was succeeded by his sister, wife of Sir John Howard: he died in 1424, leaving Elizabeth his daughter and heiress, married afterwards to the Earl of Oxford. He being beheaded in 1461 for his adherence to Henry VI., this manor underwent the fate of the other estates of this family; but was restored to his grandson. It afterwards belonged to the Smith family. Anne Waller, who died in 1590, held two parts of the manor. She died without

without heirs, and it escheated to the crown. In 1612 this estate was possessed by Richard Wiseman, Esq. Carew Harvey Mildmay, Esq., of Marks, was the last possessor.

The manor of Albins lies partly in this parish and partly in that of Navestocke. The mansion-house is in Stapleford, about half a mile north of the church, in the middle of a small park. This manor and estate made part of the endowment of a chantry, founded in Wivenhoe church in 1413. Upon the suppression of chantries, Henry VIII. in 1545 let the revenues of the manor to William Luter for twenty-one years, at the rent of 15*l.* 9*s.* per annum; and after that John Smith had it for the same term. But in 1548 Edward VI. granted it to Walter Cely and his heirs. His son, after levying a fine, conveyed the premises to George Wiseman, Gent., and his wife, in 1569; others had it afterwards; and in 1578 William Fitch, Esq., held it. In 1610 Sir John Woode, Knight, clerk of the signet, held it. Lady Magdalen Edmonds died in possession of this estate in 1614: her husband enjoyed it till 1639. He was employed in several important embassies by Queen Elizabeth and James I., and was appointed treasurer of the household. His daughters, coheiresses, sold the estate of Albins to Anthony Abdy, Esq.: his heirs, in default of issue, lose the estate, as it goes to the son of the Rev. Thomas Rutherford, D. D., who married a sister of Sir Anthony Thomas Abdy; though there is a younger brother of the Abdy family.

The mansion-house of Albins is by some thought to have been built by Inigo Jones; but Horace Walpole, in his *Lives of Painters*, is of a different opinion. It was repaired by Sir James Abdy, Bart., who preserved the old style of its building in his alterations.

Knowle, otherwise Knowle's Hill, is a mile south-west of the church, and is a very pleasant spot in the parish, where Henry Spencer, Bishop of Norwich, had a seat. One piece of ground, which contains twelve acres, is still named Bishop's Moat, where there is a moat reported to have been paved with marble. Most of the lands of this estate lie in Lambourn. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth it belonged to the Stonard family of Loughton. Amy, daughter and heiress of Francis Stonard, was married to George Waldron, Esq., and brought the estate to him. He died in 1690; she in 1712. They had a son, who died early. Sir John Fortescue Aland, lord of the capital manor of the neighbouring parish of Lambourn, having purchased this seat, made it his place of residence, and by various improvements made it a delightful

lightful place. His lordship founded a free-school here near Bonebridge for teaching poor children to read and write.

The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is of one pace with the chancel, and of equal width: adjoining to the chancel is a north chapel, called Abdy's, being the burial-place of that family. It was granted as an appendage of the manor to St. Edmund's-bury monastery, and the rectory continued in their gift till the suppression, when it came to the crown. In 1540 Henry VIII. granted the advowson, with the manor, to John Maynard, but only for a term of years; for it reverted to the crown, and has been in its gift ever since the year 1560. The rectory has a glebe of thirty acres. Stapleford Abbot is rated to the land-tax at 1134*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.*

STAPLEFORD TANY.

THIS parish derived its name from the family of Tany, who had estates in the county. In the Confessor's reign Godric was possessed of it. Sweyn of Essex and his under-tenant held it at the time of the survey; and Robert Gernon had one hide here given by the Conqueror. It was held afterwards of the honour of Sweyn, lord of Raley, as it belonged to him.

Stapleford Tany hall, the mansion-house of this capital manor, stands a short way from the church. In the reign of Henry II. and Richard I. Richard Fitz-William held of this house eight knights' fees, and this among the rest. Margaret de Tany married to John de Drokensford, coming into possession of it in 1317, he in her right presented to the living. Their son Thomas dying in 1361, left Anne, his only daughter and heiress, afterwards married to Thomas, heir and son of Sir Thomas Mandeville of Black Notley. Roger Spice presented to the living from 1431 to 1452, being a son of Alice Mandeville, who had married Richard Spice, her second husband; Clement Spice, his son and heir, sold the manor and advowson to William Scott, Esq. Elizabeth, a descendant of the Scott family, marrying Sir Edward Alleyn of Hatfield priory, brought him this estate. He was high-sheriff of the county in 1629, and created a baronet. Arabella became a considerable heiress upon the death of a descendant of Sir Edward, and possessed this estate, which she sold to Sir Edward Smyth, Bart., of Hill-hall; from whom it descended to his grandson, Sir Charles Smyth.

The manor of Suttons was so named from its situation in the southern part of the parish. The mansion stands about a mile south-south-west from the church near Piffingford bridge. This manor appears to have been taken from the capital one of Stapleford-hall. Till 1474 no mention is made of it, when Constance, widow of Sir John Stafford, late Earl of Wiltshire, held the manor: it was afterwards in the Luther family. John Luther died in 1567. Rebecca of this family was married to Florian Goebell, Esq., of Walthamstow. The estate was annexed in 1553 to the Dutchy of Lancaster. The parish is rated to the land-tax at 868*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.* On the common are a few dwellings for the poor without endowment.

The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and is of one pace; but the chancel has a south aisle. The belfry, which is of timber, has a spire shingled. The rectory has been always appendant to the manor of Stapleford Tany-hall, and is in the gift of Sir Charles Smyth, Bart. It has a valuable glebe of 116 acres.

NAVESTOCK.

THE name of this parish is written in other places Nasingstoke; it had the additional last syllable probably to distinguish it from the other Nasing. King Edgar gave an estate in this parish to the cathedral of St. Paul in London: it seems to be questioned whether this be true; but certainly St. Paul's cathedral had lands in this parish before the Conquest. They were taken away from it at one time, but William the Conqueror restored them to the church on the day of his coronation, exempting them as before from all tribute and taxes. At the time of the survey they all belonged to the canons of St. Paul. In the time of Henry I. the parish was taxed for eight hides and other things. At the reformation Henry VIII. took this estate from the church under the form of an exchange, in the year 1544. After having continued in the Crown till 1553, Queen Mary I. granted the manor of Navestock, with the rectory and advowson of the vicarage, to Sir Edward Waldegrave and his heirs. This very ancient family derived its name from the German word Wald, signifying power; and the latter syllable, which means governor. They flourished before the Conquest, and were originally seated in Northamptonshire, where they gave the name to the parish of Waldegrave. John de Waldegrave lost his lands upon the Conqueror's invasion; but having an only daughter, and meeting with a person of the same name in the service of William, who was come from Germany,

many, they discovered a relationship; and the German promised to obtain him a restitution of his lands and a pardon from the Conqueror, if he would give him his daughter in marriage. This was accordingly performed. The pardon and grant of the lands, with King William's seal, remained with the lords of the manor till 1612, written in the old French language. This estate continues in the possession of the present noble Earl Waldegrave, who succeeded to the title and estates upon the death of his elder brother, who was drowned whilst bathing in the Thames at Eton, at which school he was, and then only in his ninth year. Navestock-hall stands a short way from the church. From this capital manor have arisen some small ones, called Boys-hall, Loft-hall, and Slades.

Boys-hall stands a mile to the east of the church. The first mention which is made of this manor was in the reign of Henry VII. Andrew Prior held it in 1507 of the dean and canons of St. Paul, London, as of their prebend of Navestock. In 1546 John Prest, Esq., held the manor. In 1564 William Bradbourne and Frances his wife, daughter of Prest, levied a fine; and in 1565 the manor was conveyed to John Greene, Esq., descended from a family of that name in Northamptonshire. In 1752 Maurice Greene, the last possessor of that family, in whose hands it had remained all the time, sold the estate to the Earl Waldegrave.

Loft-hall is another manor here. John Sedley in 1581 held it of Frances Powlett, widow. It was purchased of Sir William Sedley, Bart., of Northfleet in Kent, by John Greene, Esq., and has passed as the former to the Earl Waldegrave.

Slades is another manor in the parish. The earliest account of it is in 1525, when Henry Torrell, Esq., held it of the dean and chapter of St. Paul: it afterwards belonged to the Howland family of Stone-hall in Little Canfield, and now to the Earl Waldegrave, who possesses the chief and best part of the parish. The estate consists of two farms, and is not at present reckoned a manor. Here are some small donations.

The church, dedicated to St. Thomas, is sufficiently large, and consists of a body and south aisle. It has a wooden spire. The great tithes of this parish were appropriated to the dean and chapter of St. Paul, and a vicarage instituted, which continued in their collation till 1544, when Henry VIII. took both church and manor from them. Queen Mary granted them to Sir Edward Waldegrave in 1553. The ecclesiastical jurisdiction, however, remained in the dean and chapter, who are ordinaries of the place, and give institution and induction to the vicarage. John Barnet,

Bishop

Bishop of Bath and Wells, granted to the vicar of this church and his successors nine acres of arable land, two acres and one rood of meadow, and is. yearly rent in this parish. The rectory and the advowson of the vicarage were given with the other possessions to Trinity College, Oxford, by Sir Thomas Pope, their founder, in 1555. Some years since the vicarage was amply endowed by the College on these conditions: the vicar for the time being is the lessee for the great tithes, paying to the College a small quit-rent, and a fine certain of 60*l.* per annum.

On Navestock common is an old entrenchment, and near it runs a high bank with a ditch on each side.

The parish is rated to the land-tax at 1703*l.* 3*s.*

KELVEDON HATCH

THERE are two parishes of this name in the county of Essex; the last addition of Hatch, which signifies a low gate, is to distinguish it from Kelvedon Easterford in the hundred of Witham. The Saxon derivation of the word means, cold and hill; but Dr. Stukeley thinks it to be most probably taken from the Celtic, which signifies mysterious; thus, a mysterious hill. In the time of the Saxons the lands in this parish belonged to Ailric, a freeman, and Leuena: St. Peter's at Westminster, after the Conquest, held one manor and two hides here; Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, and his tenant, half a hide and twenty acres; and Hamo Dapifer, one hide and forty-five acres, and one manor. The lands were afterwards divided into the two manors of Germins or Jermaines, and of Miles. Ailric gave his share to the abbey of St. Peter, a grant which the Confessor confirmed. The abbot and monks continued lords paramount till after the year 1532. This was the part which bore the name of Germaines or Jermayns. The rectory was appendant to the manor; in 1372 Sir Roger de Kirketon and others held the manor and advowson. From 1383 to 1457 it was in the family of Hawes; and from 1464 to 1511 it was in the Bowles family. John Wright, Gent., had it from 1547, and it continued in his descendants. About 1444 Henry Chaderton held the manor of Germaines. In 1524 Henry Torrell, Esq., held this manor of John Bowles. Kelvedon-hall stands near the west end of the church.

Miles is another manor here. The mansion-house stands about a mile north of the church. No mention is made of this manor under the present name in the ancient

records till the latter end of Henry VII.'s reign, when Andrew Prior, who died in 1507, held it of the dean and chapter of St. Paul in London, as of their prebend of Navestock. John Prest, Esq., in 1546, held it. Alice, wife of Robert Blackwall, Esq., to whom she had been remarried after the death of her husband John Prest, held the manor of Sir Edward Waldegrave. The estate was afterwards in Richard and Anthony Luther, Esqrs., whose epitaphs describe them as two brothers, so mutually attached, that they lived together for forty years without any housekeeping account between them: they died in 1627. The first mention which is made of this family is about the latter end of Henry VIII.'s reign, when William Luter, for so the name was written, had a lease from the crown of the manor of Albins. Mr. R. Luther, who gave up the estate to his son upon his marriage, much enlarged and beautified the house.

Bryces is a good old house, in the parish, near Navestock common, above a mile south-east from the church. It took its name from Thomas Bryce, citizen and mercer of London, who built it in 1498. He continued in possession of it till 1515, when it was sold to Sir John Allen, alderman of London, who, in 1528, disposed of it to John Catchmaid: the latter assigned it to Edward Northey, Gent., attorney at law. About 1548, Northey conveyed it to Richard Pettus, of an ancient family in Norfolk. Ralph Pettus, who was a great loyalist during the civil wars in the seventeenth century, was obliged to mortgage the estate, which he could never redeem. It has been for some time in the Glasscock family. Waltham Abbey had lands here, called Prior's Lands. There are other lands in the parish.

The church, dedicated to St. Nicholas, consists of a body and south aisle. The rectory has been always appendant to the capital manor of Kelvedon Hatch, and is in the Wright family. The living is not discharged, and is valued in the king's books at 12/.

STONDON, OR STANDON MARCI.

STONDON derived its name from its situation, as it stands on a stony hill, and its addition of Marci came from its ancient lords the Merks, who had here several estates. This place is not mentioned in Domesday-book, and was therefore included in some neighbouring parish; probably in that of Ongar, where the Merks family had property. Here is only one manor, that of Stondon-hall; the mansion-house

house of which stands a short way north of the church. The Spigurnell family were the next ancient owners. It came then into a branch of the Gobyon family, by the marriage of Joan, an heiress, with William Gobyon: she presented to the living in her own right from 1369 to 1385, and John and William Gobyon from 1391 to 1410. Sir John Hende, a man of immense property, and lord mayor of London, next possessed the estate; his widow presented in her own right in 1433. Joan, heiress of the estate, was married, in 1462, to Walter Writell, Esq., of Bobbingworth. The estate, about 1510, by what means it is difficult to ascertain, whether by gift or settlement, next came into the Belknapp family. In 1521, Sir Edward Belknapp held the manor. His heirs were, his sister Anne, wife of Robert Wootton, of Bocton Malherb; Mary, widow of Gerard Dannett, Esq.; Alice, wife of William Shelley; and Anthony Cooke, Esq., son of Elizabeth his third sister. William Shelley had the estate, and presented to the living in 1538. In 1604, king James I. granted this manor to John Carill, Esq. It was next in a branch of the Riche family, descended from Richard Riche, sheriff of London in 1441. It remained with them till 1706, when it was purchased by Richard How, Esq.; he died in 1748, and, by will, gave this manor and estate to William Taylor, Esq., of Great Hadham.

Stondon-place, the seat of the late John How, Esq., is about half a mile south-south-east of the church. There are other lands in the parish. Here are two farms belonging to Emanuel and Christ's colleges, Cambridge. Here are also some small benefactions, among which is a house and land, rented at 2*l.* 10*s.* per annum, given to buy bell-ropes. In Domesday-book was a parcel of land in Stondon parish, called Plumptions, which Ralph Peverell held.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, is of one pace with the chancel. It has a shingled spire, and contains three bells. The rectory has been usually appendant to the manor. The tithes of Mark's manor, in Roding, belong to this rectory, where was formerly a chapel, named Capella de Roothing Marci; to which the rectors of Stondon have been sometimes instituted with this church. The parish is rated to the land-tax at 438*l.*, and the living is valued in the king's books at 13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* but is not discharged.

BARSTABLE HUNDRED.

THIS hundred is bounded on the north-west by Ongar hundred; on the north by Chelmsford hundred; by part of Chelmsford hundred and Rochford hundred on the east; on the west by Chafford hundred; and on the south by the river Thames. It is about fifteen miles and a half long in its greatest extent, from north to south: and in its widest part, from east to west, about eleven miles and a half. A point in the north-west stretches between Chafford and Chelmsford hundreds, which is crossed by the great London road; and if this is taken in the measure, it must be reckoned about seventeen miles long.

The name of this hundred is written in old records Barstaple, and in Domesday-book, Berdestapla. It is not easy to ascertain from whence it is derived. It appears, however, to be taken from the place now called Barstable-hall, in Langdon and Basildon, where, according to tradition, formerly stood a town; and which, being near the centre of the hundred, was the most convenient place for holding courts, and transacting all affairs of a public nature. The king is seised in fee of this hundred, and used to grant the custody and bailiwick of it by patent for life; but lately only for a term of years. Robert de Sutton, in 1210, enjoyed it, and had it also in 1224, for a fee farm of 18*l*. He gave it to William Bigod, son of Hugh Earl of Norfolk, who married his daughter Margaret. In 1263, Eleanor queen of Henry III. possessed it; William Gifford and Joan his wife in 1265; Edmund of Woodstock, third son of Edward I., Edmund viscount Beaumont, John Plantagenet Earl of Kent, second son of Edmund of Woodstock, in 1352; Thomas Holland, Earl of Kent, in 1361; Joan, the Fair Maid of Kent, afterwards wife to Edward the Black Prince, and mother of king Richard II., had it in 1385; Thomas de Holland, his son, in 1396; Sir Roger Ree in 1475, and William Ree next. In 1678 it was granted to William Scroggs, Esq., for forty-one years, if he should live so long; and, in 1707, to Sir John Sparrow, Knt., at the yearly fee of 6*s*. 8*d*.

The hundred is within the archdeaconry of Essex. It contains thirty-two parishes:—Doddington, Shenfield, Hutton, Burghsted Great, Burghsted Little, Ramsden Crays, Ramsden Belhouse, Downham, Horndon East, Horndon West with Gingralph, Horndon on the Hill, Dunton, Bulvan, Orset, Little Thurrock, Chadwell, Tilbury West, Tilbury East, Mucking, Stanford le Hope, Coringham, Fobbing, Langdon

Langdon Hills, Langdon with Bafildon, Newendon, Wickford, Pitsey, Buers Gifford, Bemfleet North, Bemfleet South, Thundersley, and Canvey Island.

DODDINGHURST.

DODDINGHURST is the north-west point of this hundred, adjoining to that of Ongar immediately preceding. Dr. Stukeley derives the name from the British word which signifies a wizard, or wise man, as they might call a Druid. Some have gone so far as to suppose that the Saxons took it from Dodona, a city of Epirus, near which stood a wood of oaks, sacred to Jupiter: this is however, perhaps, too far-fetched. The word hurst signifies wood. In the reign of the Confessor, Aluric was possessed of the parish; which, at the time of the survey, was held by Robert son of Corbutio, and his tenant Gerard. It has two manors; that of Doddingtonhurst, and Doddingtonhurst-place, otherwise Kensingtons.

Doddingtonhurst-hall, the mansion-house of this parish, is on the south side of the church. This manor came into the noble family of De Vere, as part of their earldom of Oxford. John, the twelfth earl, forfeited it in 1461, with his eldest son; both being beheaded for their adherence to the house of Lancaster. Edward IV. gave it to his brother Richard, Duke of York. But Henry VII. restored it to the second son, John thirteenth Earl of Oxford. This family produced a succession of twenty earls. Edward, the last earl, having squandered away his estates, the manor of Doddingtonhurst was sold in 1579, with other lands here, to Richard Stonely, Esq., who suffered a recovery of them, with the advowson of the church, the May following. But in 1599 he sold them both to Thomas Glasscock, who died in possession of them in 1623, and one hundred and eighty acres of demesne lands. He left one daughter his sole heir, married to Thomas Luther, Esq., a branch of the family of Miles and Stapleford Tany, in this county. Upon his death the estate came to his wife, who left it to her niece Miss Surman. With this manor a parcel of land is incorporated, of about sixty acres, which Orbert Daggeworth, in 1259, held of the king of the honour of Rayley, in socage, by the service of three arrows, feathered with eagles' feathers, bound round with gold thread. His son John Daggeworth sold them to Thomas de Vere, who held them, by the same service, in 1304.

Doddingtonhurst-place, otherwise Kensingtons, is the other manor in this parish. The mansion-house stands about half a mile north-west from the church, in a bottom.

bottom. It is independent of Doddinghurst-hall; but it does not appear when it was taken and separated from that manor. Neither is there any account of its owners, till about the reign of queen Elizabeth. It then belonged to Richard Stonely, and by the marriage of one of his daughters it came to — Dawtrey, an old family, seated in Suffex since the Conquest. The name is Norman, in Latin De Altâ Ripâ, translated De Haut Rey. The estates of William Dawtrey, who was sheriff for the county in 1736, and died unmarried, came to his nephew, Richard Luther, Esq., of Miles.

Groves is another reputed manor. Henry VII. in 1503, granted licence to Sir Thomas Bouchier to give to the chauntry of Grace church, London, the manor of Groves, and other lands in Doddinghurst.

Convers is also called a manor in this parish. Winstar Browne possessed it in 1567. Edward Page held it in 1611, of Sir Thomas Joslyn. This manor, or lands, seems either to have given or taken their name from a family furnamed Convers, one of whom was buried at Stapleford Abbots, in 1599. A messuage, lands, and tenements, called Wyfstrefields, or Westridgefields, in this parish, belonging to the monastery of Edington, in Wiltshire, were granted by Henry VIII., in 1540, to William Barners and Walter Farre. There are other lands in this parish. Doddinghurst List is part of South Weald and of Kelvedon Hatch, consisting of about four hundred acres, which pays constable's rates to Doddinghurst, but no other rates. Weald, Kelvedon, and Doddinghurst, are in three different hundreds.

The church, which is dedicated to All Saints, is small, of one pace with the chancel. The rectory was always appendant to the manor here; and was a long time in the gift of the noble family of De Vere; then of Richard Stonely; of Glasscock; of Butler; of Harris; and Luther; in which last family it continued, or in their assigns. The parish is rated to the land-tax at 1328/. The living, which is not discharged, is valued in the king's books at 10/. 3s. 9d.

SHENFIELD.

SHENFIELD is the other parish which lies to the north-west point of this hundred; on the great road to London, between Mountnessing and Brentwood. Some of its houses stand in the east of Brentwood town, from which it is divided by the road leading from Billericay to Ongar. It takes its name from two Saxon words, which signify

signify a pleasant field. Some Roman lares were dug up here about forty years since; which Mr. Jackson, of Warley Place, obtained. In the reign of the Confessor, Bodd, a freeman, enjoyed this parish; but, at the time of the survey, it was held by Eustace Earl of Boulogne. It was afterwards divided into two manors, Shenfield-hall and Fitzwalters.

Shenfield-hall stands near the church. It is not ascertained who were the immediate successors of Eustace Earl of Boulogne; but the earliest possessor on record is Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Essex. At the time of his death, in 1298, he held this manor of the king in capite of the honour of Mandeville, with the advowson of the church. It came, in all probability, into the family upon the marriage of Henry de Bohun Earl of Hereford, with Maud heiress of the house of Mandeville. Eleanor, eldest daughter of Humphrey, and his heir, brought it in marriage to her husband, Thomas de Woodstock, sixth son of king Edward III., who possessed it at the time of his violent death, in September 1397. He left three daughters: Anne; Joan, who was married to Gilbert Lord Talbot, who had 73*s.* 4*d.* per ann. out of this manor; and Isabel, a nun. Joan, dying in 1399, left one daughter, but she surviving her mother a very short time, the whole inheritance came to her eldest sister, who married three husbands, Thomas and Edmund Lords Stafford; the latter had it at his death in 1403. Her third husband, Sir William Bourchier, enjoyed it afterwards, for he presented to the living in 1408. Her son, Humphrey Stafford Duke of Buckingham, in all probability succeeded her; and, upon his being killed in the battle of Northampton, in 1460, the estate was seized by king Edward IV., who settled it upon his queen, Elizabeth; and she presented to the rectory till 1495. It remained in the crown till Henry VIII., Edward VI., or queen Mary, granted it away. It afterwards continued for some time in private hands. Humphrey Tyrrell presented in 1545, Francis Rylie in 1559, William Walton in 1562, and Thomas Parker in 1567 and 1575. But before the year 1559, the manor had been granted to the Lucas family; for John Lucas, Esq., in 1556, held the manor. This family obtained a barony in 1644, in the person of John Lucas, Esq., Baron Lucas of Shenfield, with limitation to two brothers. His daughter inherited, there being no male issue surviving. She was created Baroness Lucas, by Charles II., of Crudwell, in Wiltshire, and brought the estate in marriage to Anthony Earl of Kent, who left a son and heir Henry, created, in 1706, Marquis and Earl of Harold, and afterwards Duke of

Kent. He had no heirs; and settled the estate upon Jemima, his grand-daughter, married to Viscount Glenorchy, heir apparent to the Earl of Bredalbane, in Scotland. She was married afterwards to the Earl of Hardwicke.

The manor of Fitzwalters was so called from the noble family of Fitzwalter, who possessed it. It was taken from the capital manor of the Earl of Boulogne, who resided in this parish. The mansion stands about a mile and a quarter north-east from the church, by the side of a stream, on the right hand side of the road from Ingatestone to Brentwood. It is called the Round-house; its form is very singular, being octagonal, and having all its chimnies in the middle. In 1301, Robert Lord Fitzwalter had licence to make a park, by enclosing his wood at Shenfield, within the forest of Essex. From this family it came to Ellena wife of Robert Knyvett, who died in 1435; she held it in fee tail of the king, in capite. John Morecroft, Esq., had it in the seventeenth century; and is said to have built the house after an Italian model. In the beginning of the last century it belonged to Sir Thomas Ambrose, Knt., brewer, and sheriff of London in 1719. It is now in the possession of — Wright, Esq., an eminent banker, who resides here continually.

Shenfield-place is a capital messuage on the north side of the London road, which for several years has belonged to the Vaughan family. There are other lands in this parish. In Edward II.'s reign, John Basset had licence to enclose the wood of Shenfield, within the forest of Essex.

The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and consists of a body and north aisle; and the chancel has a north chapel. At the west end is a wooden spire of considerable height. The rectory has been always appendant on the manor of Shenfield-hall. The living is not discharged, and is valued in the king's books at 14*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.*

HOTON, OR HUTTON.

THIS place stands east of Shenfield. The old Saxon name was How, or Hill, from which, with the other addition, which means town or village, the present name originated. It belonged, in the Confessor's reign, to one Got, a freeman. William the Conqueror, taking it from him, made it part of the endowment of his abbey of Battel, in Suffex. It continued in that monastery till the suppression.

Henry

Henry VIII., in 1539, granted the manor, with the rectory, to Sir Thomas D'Arcy and his heirs. Sir Thomas, in the same year, alienated it to Sir Richard Riche. It came from that family to Jerome Weston, Esq., who soon after disposed of it to the White family, of the neighbouring parish. Thomas Cory, Esq., of Great Fransham, in Norfolk, purchased it of that family, after it had remained with them some time. He died in 1656, and left one daughter, married to John Hayward, Esq. The next possessor was Mr. William Hatherly, a tailor, of London, whose wife was niece to Mr. Hayward, and brought him this estate. It was from them sold to Robert Surnam, Esq., cashier of the South Sea Company, for the sum of 15,200*l*. The Company sold it, upon Mr. Surnam's forfeiture, for 12,060*l*., to Henry Hall, Esq., of Upton. Hutton-hall stands on the north side of the church. George White, Esq., gave nine acres for the repairs of the church, and to the poor.

The church, dedicated to All Saints, consists of a body and two aisles, but the chancel is only of one pace. It has a spired steeple, and is very neat. The rectory, or great tithes, belonged to Battel abbey till the dissolution, and have since passed with the manor. But the advowson of the vicarage has been, since 1325, in the dean and chapter of St. Paul. The parish is rated to the land-tax at 758*l*. The living is not discharged, and is valued in the king's books at 8*l*.

BURGHSTED, OR BURSTED.

THE two contiguous parishes of Burghsted lie to the east of the three last places, distinguished by the name of Great and Little. It is derived from a Saxon word, and means a place of retirement, a town, or tower, and the latter syllable a place. Camden once supposed it to be the Cæsaromagus mentioned in the Itinerary of Antoninus. Here was undoubtedly a Roman villa, or station; for at Bluntswall, in this parish, are earth-works, the remains of a rampart or ditch, containing about four acres, one part of which was enclosed round, and in it were mounts artificially raised, but now chiefly levelled. In 1724, in digging for gravel in a field, on a high hill, near Billericay, after having sunk about three feet, there appeared a large bed of black earth or ashes, in which were mixed a quantity of pieces of earthen vessels of different kinds and colours, of white, red, and dark brown. Nothing has been discovered entire, but the pieces appeared to be fragments of pateræ, urns, &c. In one part was a place made like an oven, of hard clay. There is no clay within three miles

of the place. There have been found here several Roman coins of copper, and two of silver; one of Trajan and another of Hadrian.

Great Burghsted is the largest of the two parishes; the lordship of which belonged to Ingar, a Saxon thane, in the time of Edward the Confessor; William the Conqueror having taken it from him, gave it to his half-brother Odo, Bishop of Bayeux. This was the capital manor of Odo, of whom it may not be improper to say a few words, as he has been so frequently spoken of before. After Arlotta had brought forth to Robert, sixth Duke of Normandy, his natural son William conqueror of England, she married a Norman gentleman, named Herluiner, by whom she had Odo, or Eudo. He being a man of good understanding was much esteemed by his brother, who appointed him Bishop of Bayeux. He attended him at the battle of Hastings. After the victory his honours showered upon him. He received 39 lordships in this county, and 216 over the kingdom. Not satisfied with this immense wealth, but still aspiring to higher honours, he committed heavy extortions, and prepared to go to Rome with all his treasures in order to obtain the popedom; but the Conqueror, who had appointed him governor of England during his absence, arrested him in the Isle of Wight, and kept him prisoner in Normandy during the remainder of his reign; afterwards entering into a plot against William Rufus in 1088, he was banished the kingdom, and deprived of all his possessions. The lordship becoming vested in the crown, no account of it is to be met with; but it appears to have been granted to the Mareschalls, Earls of Pembroke. In 1393 Thomas Earl of Stafford had half a fee in Great Burghsted, and previous to that date the abbot of Stratford had most of the lands of the parish. John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, at the time of his death, had in 1433 two fees and a half in Burghsted.

These lands were divided into three manors, Great Burghsted, otherwise Burghsted Grange, Westhouse, and Bluntswall.

Burghsted Grange mansion-house stands above half a mile east from the church towards Ramfden Cray: it is called Grange, because it was one of the barns of the Cistercian abbey of Stratford Langthorne. They had the chief part of the lands of the parish, but the names of the donors of many of them are not known. Their founder, William de Montfichet, had no lands here to give them. Richard II. was a benefactor; besides that he removed the monks who had settled here, and rebuilt their abbey at Stratford; and they had 60 acres given them by John Henny. William Langdich in 1358 granted them one messuage, 240 acres of arable, 15 of meadow, and 90 of pasture

pasture in Great Burghsted, held of the abbey; and the abbey held them under the Earl of Gloucester. Henry III. in 1253, and Edward I. in 1285, granted the abbot and monks a market and fair at Burghsted; and Edward IV. in 1476 granted a market and two fairs at Billericay. Such were the grants made to Stratford abbey in this parish. Several manors, with the rectory and advowson of the vicarage, which also belonged to Stratford abbey, were granted by Henry VIII. in 1539 to Sir Richard Rich, who had a confirming grant from King Edward VI.: he alienated the manor in 1551, with the rectory and advowson of the vicarage, to Thomas Marshe. Richard Lord Rich possessed them in 1566. In 1600 Sir Edwin Rich sold them to Sir John Petre, Knight, whose son was made Baron of Writtle; and from him they descended to Lord Petre.

The manor of Westhouse belonged to Stratford abbey, and was granted to Sir Richard Rich, who in 1540 alienated it to Walter Farre and others. It came afterwards into the family of Lumley, and was some years since sold to Guy's Hospital by Sir James Lumley's trustees. Sir Martin Lumley, or his father, built here; but the house was left unfinished and fell into decay. It stood about a half a mile west of the church.

The manor of Bluntswall was so named from the ancient family of Blunt. Walls was added for the sake of distinction, being taken from the walls, or earth-work, which still partly remain here. The house stands about a mile and half north-west of the church. A court is kept here, but no copyholders. This estate belonged to the priory of Mountneffing. In 1525 it was granted to Cardinal Wolfey for the endowment of his two colleges. Upon his forfeiture the crown possessed it, and Henry VIII. in 1530 gave it to Sir Richard Page for his life. After his death Henry sold it to Sir William Petre in 1554 and his heirs. It has ever since continued in that noble family. It pays neither great nor small tithes.

Billerca is a hamlet in Great Burghsted, but of such considerable size as to be a market-town; and indeed the only one in the hundred, except the small town of Horndon on the Hill: it is now called Billericay, and stands about a mile and half north of the parish church. The market is on Tuesdays; and here are two fairs, July 22d and October 7th. The name is not easily to be accounted for. The first mention which is made of it is in 1343, when Thomas Malegreffe is recorded to have held in Burghsted, in the hamlet of Billericay, then Beleuca, of the Earl of Hereford, as of his manor of Fobbyng, 4s. 6d. rent by service of 4s. rent per annum, and

and suit of court. The name of Beleuca was probably derived from the old word Baleuga, or Banleuga, denoting a territory or precinct round a borough or manor, in French Banlieu; but how it was changed into Billericay, which name it bore in 1395, is not easy to say.

The town is very pleasantly situated, and is a great thoroughfare to Horndon on the Hill, East Tilbury, and Gravesend: between Tilbury and Gravesend is supposed to be the place where the Emperor Claudius forded or crossed the Thames. Anciently there was a chapel here, which served as a chantry. It was probably of two hundred years standing, and was built by the Sulyards of Fleming, in the parish of Runwell. It is a long brick building in the street, where the vicar of Great Burghsted officiates in the afternoon on a Sunday, or else a chaplain chosen by the inhabitants. It was probably erected about 1345 for the convenience of the parishioners of Billericay, when the western part of the hamlet was inundated by the waters in the winter time. King Edward VI. sold the chapel, with the chantry, to Mr. Tyrell and his heirs; and he keeping the land, sold the chapel again to the inhabitants of Billericay, which was in the hands of trustees for their use; they surrendered it for consecration to the Bishop of London in 1693, when he consecrated it, and dedicated it to St. Mary Magdalen. There are other estates in the parish. The Rev. Mr. Baylye, rector of North Bembfleet, left an estate of 20*l.* per annum for the education of ten poor children of this town. Mr. Francis Baylye was rector in 1654.

The church consists of a body and two aisles, and the chancel has a north chapel. The steeple, which has a leaded spire, contains five bells. The rectory of the parish belonged to the abbey of Stratford Langthorne, being appropriated to them. They had also the advowson of the vicarage, to which they presented till the dissolution: then it came into the families of Riche and Petre. This parish, with the hamlet of Billericay, is rated to the land-tax at 1968*l.* The living is not discharged, and is valued at 17*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* in the king's books, and is united with Billericay.

LITTLE BURGHSTED.

THIS parish adjoins, and lies to the south-west of the other; on which account it is sometimes called West Burghsted. Godwin was lord of this parish in the reign of the Confessor. At the time of the survey, it was the Bishop of London's fee, which meant

meant his estate. The capital manor here is still in the Bishop of London : but Odo having it within his grasp, out of it were erected two more manors, which extend into Dunton, where that mitred plunderer carried them. From his encroachments were erected the manors of Whitehall, and of St. Margarets, with Southfields.

The manor of Whitehall had a mansion-house, which is now fallen down ; the out-houses remain, where the court is kept. This manor was in the family of Helion as early as the time of Henry II. In 1301 Gilbert de St. Owen held one knight's fee there. In 1331 Humphry de Waleden held it ; and Humphrey de Bohun in 1372 ; John Pickenham in 1377. From Edward IV.th's reign this manor has been in the Tyrell family.

St. Margaret's is another manor in this parish. On the opposite side of the lane, in which stands the house belonging to St. Margaret, there is another house belonging to an estate called Southfields. Whitehall, St. Margaret's, and Southfields, belong to the heirs of the late Sir John Tyrell, Bart.

The family of Walton have been several years seated in this parish. There are other lands here, and three alms-houses. The church stands in an obscure situation, and is of one pace with the chancel. It has a small spire. The rectory has always been in the collation of the Bishops of London. It has a glebe of about 32 acres. The Rev. William Dunbar, late rector of the parish, left 20*l.* a year to the succeeding rectors, payable out of an estate called Braintrees, near Braintree. Little Burghsted is rated to the land-tax at 520*l.* The living is not discharged, and is valued at 12*l.* in the king's books.

R A M S D E N.

RAMSDEN is derived from two Saxon words, which signify ram and valley. Two contiguous parishes of the same name join the Burghsteds to the north-east ; known at the time of the Norman survey by the general appellation of Ramsden ; but afterwards distinguished by the surname of their ancient possessors, the families of Cray and Belhouse.

Ramsden Cray lies nearest to Burghsted. In the reign of the Confessor part of it belonged to two freemen, and to Siric another. At the survey, Odo Bishop of Bayeux, and Ralph, brother of Ilger, possessed them. There are two manors in the parish ; that of Ramsden Cray, and that of Thyled-hall or Thill-hall.

The

The manor of Ramsden Cray has a mansion-house, which lies down in a bottom on the south side of the church. This belonged to Odo. The earliest mention of it is in Henry III.'s reign. In 1262 Simon de Crei held it; John de Lifton in 1363. Thomas de Lifton granted it to Sir Thomas Tyrrell of East Horndon, with the advowson of the church. From the time of Edward IV. the Tyrrells presented to the living till 1630. Sir John Tyrrell alienated them to William Walter, Esq., of Little Burghsted, who presented in 1630. About the beginning of the eighteenth century William Walton, Esq., elder brother of the admiral, sold the estate to Richard Earl of Scarborough; and he in 1718 sold it for 7200*l.* to John Hopkins, Esq.

The manor of Thyld-hall seems to be the part which belonged to Ralph Ilger at the time of the survey. Humphrey Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Essex, had it in 1372. Under this family it was held by John de Vere, Earl of Oxford. Roger de Mortimer, Earl of March, held it in 1398; and Hans de Chevre held it under him: it has since passed with the other manor and demesnes to the family of Tyrrell, to that of Walter, and Hopkins. There are other lands here.

The church is of one pace with the chancel, and the whole tiled. The belfry has a shingled spire on the top. The rectory is appendant on the manor. The parish is laid to the land-tax at 416*l.* The living is valued at 20*l.* in the king's books, and is not discharged.

RAMSDEN BELHOUSE.

THIS parish lies north-east of the last, and had the name of Belhouse given to it by way of distinction from its ancient lords of that name. At the time of the survey the Bishop of London and Robert Gernon were possessed of the lands of this parish. In the Confessor's reign one part had belonged to Godric, and Gernon's to three freemen. These lands were afterwards divided into the manors of Ramsden Belhouse, and of Ramsden Barrington or Barnton.

The manor of Ramsden Belhouse has a mansion-house, standing a short way north-west from the church. This is the part which belonged to the Bishop of London. Reinfred de Bruier was possessed of it about the reign of Henry II. In 1200 King John confirmed all the lands which Reinfred held in Essex to Richard de Belhus. The families De Legne and De Wateville had an interest in the capital manor of the parish, which they made over to the Belhouse family. Sir Thomas de
Belhouse,

Belhouse, who died in 1375 without issue, had a sister, who married John Castle-layn, Esq., and had by him Margaret, an only daughter and heiress, who brought the estates to Robert Knyvett, Esq., in marriage, second son of Sir John Knyvett, lord chancellor, who held the manor of the Bishop of London. The Clopton family had it next from marriage. The Knyvett family presented to the living from 1388 to 1498, and the Clopton family from 1549 to 1616, which proves how long they were in possession of the capital manor. Sir Jacob Gerrard, Knight, purchased them of William Clopton, Esq.; he was created a baronet in 1662. They descended from this family to Sir Jacob Gerrard Downing, Bart.

The manor of Ramsden Barrington, or Barnton, is the other manor of the parish, which at the time of the survey belonged to Gernon. It took the additional name of Barrington from Sir Nicholas Barrington of Barrington-hall in Hatfield Broad Oak. He had it in marriage with Alice, daughter of Sir Richard de Belhouse. From the Barringtons it came into the noble family of Bohun. Upon a division of the estates between Anne, who had married first, Thomas, then, Edward Lord Stafford, and afterwards William Bourchier Earl of Eu, by whom she had Henry Earl of Essex; and King Henry V., son of Mary, the daughter and heiress of Thomas de Woodstock; the estate fell to the share of Anne: upon which it was disunited from the dutchy of Lancaster, to which it had been annexed by Henry V. in 1414. Henry Bourchier, Earl of Essex, died in possession of this estate in 1483, holding it of the Bishop of London. Anne, daughter of Henry Earl of Essex, marrying in 1541 Sir William Parr, created Earl of Essex and Marquis of Northampton, dying without issue, possessed this manor. Walter Devereux, Lord Ferrars of Chartley, being heir to Anne, Queen Elizabeth granted him in 1570 this estate. He soon after sold it to Edmund Tyrell, Esq., of Beeches in Rawreth. He left four coheirs, among whom Margaret, married to Sir Francis Fitch, had the estate. In 1635 his descendant sold it to Sir Edmund Wright, Alderman of London, of whom Sir Thomas Check bought it in 1640. It has since remained in his family, and descended to Thomas Archer, Esq.; in right of his wife he was afterwards Lord Archer.

In this manor was a free chapel, called Barnton chapel, near Numph's Green. It is now demolished, and a cottage built there. There was a dispute here about the tithes belonging to the lords of Barnton between the patron of Ramsden Belhouse and that of Barnton chapel. It was decided that the rector of the chapel should

have tithes from the lands of the lord's demesnes, and the rector of the church from those of the customary tenants. There are other lands in the parish.

The church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, stands upon low ground, and is of one pace with the chancel. The steeple has a spire. The rectory was appendant to the capital manor of Ramsden Belhouse, but has been alienated from it for some years past. The parish is rated to the land-tax at 763*l*. The living is valued at 14*l*., and is not discharged.

D O W N H A M.

THIS parish is bounded by Ramsden Belhouse on the west, and on the north and east by the hundred of Chelmsford. The name is taken from the two Saxon words Dan and Ham, a village on a hill. It is not found in Domesday-book; for it was anciently a part of Ramsden Belhouse, and was the land which Anschetil held of Gernon: it was also a foke or particular jurisdiction in 1209. By foke is meant a liberty subject to some lord by special privilege, exempt from taxes, as was the city of London. In this parish are three lordships: the manor of Downham, Berne-hall, and Tremnals or Hemnals.

The manor of Downham has a house called Downham-hall, which lies a short way south-east of the church in a bottom. It belonged to a family named De Ramsden in the reign of King John, or the beginning of Henry II., and to William de Mandeville, Earl of Essex. It soon after came into the noble family of De Vere, Earls of Oxford. It continued with them till the seventeenth earl, who squandering away his property, sold it to Henry Attflow, Gent., son and heir of Edward Attflow, M. D., who died in possession of the manor in 1622, and the advowson of the church. Sir William Andrew, by marriage, possessed the estate, and his son sold it in 1698 to Francis Platt, Esq., of the Victualling-office. His sisters, coheiresses, sold it to Osmond Beauvoir, Esq., of Balms in Hackney.

The manor of Berne-hall is that which occurs in Domesday-book under Bertuna. The earliest account of it is in 1330, when John de Rochford held it of Edmund Earl of Kent. In 1337 Sir Thomas de Rochford gave up to Geoffrey de Denham, in Suffolk, his right to the manor and estates: it afterwards came again into the Rochford family. In 1558 William Latham, Esq., possessed it under Lord Bergavenny; Sir Edward Sulyard in 1610; the Bayning, or Banning, family had it next.

Paul Viscount Banning left an only daughter and heiress, Anne, married to Aubrey de Vere, the twentieth and last earl of the family. Upon her death, without issue, it came to her four aunts. Elizabeth, the youngest, married to Francis Lennard, Lord Dacre, possessed it; and it came to her youngest son, Henry Lennard, Esq.

The manor of Tremnals, or Hemnals. The mansion-house of this manor is an old and large building, lying in a bottom, above a mile and half north of the church. It is commonly called Trimnells. Sir Thomas Tyrell in 1476 held it. The estate belonged afterwards to Sir Thomas Raymond, Knight, one of the justices of the King's Bench, who died in 1683. Benjamin Disbrow, Esq., acquired it next, and was sheriff of the county in 1689. There are other lands here. In 1392 forty-six acres of arable, one of meadow, and one and half of wood, were given to St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Five pounds per annum were given to the poor of this parish, and two others out of the manor by Lady Cæsar.

The church is dedicated to St. Margaret, and stands pleasantly on a hill; it is of one pace with the chancel; at the west end is a tower of stone. The rectory was appendant to the manor of Downham-hall; and a long time in the gift of the De Vere family, Earls of Oxford. After passing through several hands it came into the Beauvoir family. The parish is rated to the land-tax at 623*l.* 3*s.* The living is valued in the king's books at 12*l.* 2*s.* 8½*d.*, and is not discharged.

H O R N D O N.

THIS hundred contains three parishes of this name, distinguished by the respective names of East, West, and on the Hill, so called from their situation. These distinctions did not subsist at the time of the survey. The name is derived from the Saxon words, which signify Horn Hill: it is sometimes written Thorndon. In the reign of the Confessor, Aluein, a thane, a priest, and a freeman, were in possession of the lands of the parish, which at the time of the survey belonged to Sweyn of Essex and the Bishop of London. These lands were afterwards divided into the manor of Heron, with Montfrith and other parcels; the manor of Foulcher, or Fuchers; and that of Low Horndon, or Abbots.

The manor of Heron, or Herne, seems originally to have taken its name from a heronry here. The family of Heron here, who possessed it, undoubtedly took their

name from the place of their habitation ; it came from them by marriage into that of Tyrell. It is not known when this manor was detached. The mansion-house stands about a mile north of the church. It is an old brick building, surrounded with a moat ; on the outer side of it stand four towers detached from the rest of the edifice. The chief part of it is of the date of Henry VI., or Edward IV. There is no exact account when the Tyrell family became possessed of it, but no doubt it was when Sir James Tyrell married Margaret, daughter and heiress of Sir William Heron, in the reign of Edward II. or III. They were descended from Walter Tyrell, who held the manor of Langham at the time of the survey, and was probably the same person who shot William Rufus in New Forest. It continues to the present time in that ancient family. Fingods and Poddesbrooke are the names of woods belonging to Heron.

The manor of Abbots was so called, because it belonged to Waltham-abbey. It is also called Low Horndon, because the house lies in a bottom below the church. Sweyn of Essex possessed it at the time of the survey, and upon the cowardice of his grandson it became forfeited to the crown. Henry II. granted this manor to Henry Gervase de Cornhull : Joan his daughter brought it to her husband Hugh de Nevill in 1195 : he granted the manor, without the advowson, to the monks of Waltham Holy-cross, who enjoyed it till the dissolution. Sir William de Torndon held half a knight's fee here in 1210 : his grand-daughter granted this also to the abbey of Waltham : at the dissolution it came to the crown. In 1544 Henry VIII. granted or sold it by the name of the manor of East Thorndon and Damhelins to Sir William Petre and his heirs ; they were part of Anne of Cleves' jointure. Sir John Tyrell had the manor of Damhelins from him. The manor of Low Thorndon, or East Thorndon, has continued ever since in the noble family of Petre.

The church stands very pleasantly on rising ground, and is dedicated to All Saints, consisting of a body and two aisles. The chancel has a chapel to the south, called Lord Petre's chapel, probably because it belonged to the abbots. At the west end is a tower of brick, embattled, with four bells. The Neville family were in possession of the rectory for a considerable length of time, as they reserved the advowson, though they gave to Waltham-abbey the manor. About 1390 it came to Henry IV., and from him to William de Bohun, Earl of Northampton. Henry VI. granted it to Sir Thomas Tyrell, in whose heirs it has since remained. A chapel was built here by the abbot and convent of Waltham, but no traces of it are left. The parish is rated to the land-tax at 508/.

WEST

WEST THORNDON.

IN the Confessor's reign two freemen possessed this parish, which Edmund, son of Algot, had at the time of the survey. There is but one manor in the parish. The mansion-house, called West Horndon Hall, stands in a park on rising ground, from whence a most beautiful prospect presents itself. It is a noble pile of building, and is now called Thorndon. The next possessors of the estate after the survey were the families of Thany, Brianzon, Drokensford, and Neville. After this, for some length of time, no account of this estate is to be met with: but in the reign of Henry VI. a family of the name of Ludowic John possessed it. This family was derived from Lewis, Dauphin, afterward King Lewis VIII. of France, who was invited over to England by the barons in the reign of King John. During his stay he had an intrigue with a noble lady, who had a son born to him, named Fitz-Lewis. The lady was heiress to a large property, and afterwards married to a nobleman, from whom some of our greatest families are descended. The estate was afterwards in the Petre family about 1600, in whom it remains. Field-house here belonged, in Henry IV.th's reign, to the family of Coggeshall.

Ging Ralph, commonly called Ingrave, was united by act of parliament to that of West Thorndon, after having been for many years a separate parish. Ging is a Saxon word, signifying meadow or pasture; the name of Ralph was taken from an owner at the time of the survey.

The mansion-house stands low near the site of the old church. The family of Montchenfy held this manor of the barony of Swainscamp. Edward I. gave it to his son Edmund of Woodstock, Earl of Kent, on failure of the male line of the eldest branch of the family. A family, surnamed De Ginges, had it in Edward I.st's reign. In 1317 it passed to Richard Gossalin, heir of John de Ginges. The Goshalm family, for so the name was now called, ceased here about the reign of Henry IV. or V. By the marriage of the heiress of the Goshalm family this estate came to Lewis John, who presented to the rectory in 1455. Sir Lewis Fitz-Lewis being attainted for his adherence to the house of Lancaster, the estate was given, among others, to Richard Duke of Gloucester by his brother King Edward IV. But the manor of West Thorndon and the advowson of the church were given to Thomas Bouchier, Archbishop of Canterbury. Upon Richard III. being defeated and slain at Bosworth-field, all his estates came to Henry VII., who restored them to Sir Richard

Fitz-

Fitz-Lewis. Ella Fitz-Lewis brought them in marriage to Sir John Mordaunt: and of him they were purchased by Sir William Petre, who died in possession of them in 1571; from him they descended to Lord Petre. There are other lands in this parish. The Rev. Robert Spencer, rector, in 1638, gave a house and land of 3*l.* per annum near the pond on Ingrave common for the ornaments of the church: it is called Church-house and Croft. The poor have also a gift in bread. An alms-house stands on the green for two dwellers.

A new brick church has been built lately at the expence of the late Lord Petre, as the old churches of West Horndon and Ging Ralph were become ruinous and taken down. It stands near the mounts belonging to West Thorndon-hall, about midway of the two old churches; whence an avenue towards Brentwood is made, with a basin of water and new plantations. Each of these churches was dedicated to St. Nicholas; that of West Horndon stood below the hall; that of Ging Ralph, about two miles north of it, in a bottom. The rectory of West Thorndon was for some time in the gift of the families of Fitz-William and Coggeshall, then of Lewis John, and Fitz-Lewis, and of Mordaunt, and ever since in the family of Petre. The rectory of Ingrave was first in that of Goshalme, and afterwards in the same family as the former. West Thorndon is rated to the land-tax at 430*l.*, and Ingrave at 455*l.* The living is not discharged, and is valued in the king's books at 14*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

THORNDON ON THE HILL.

THIS parish stands about four miles and a half south from the two others, upon a hill, whence it derived the name. There is an excellent prospect from this spot over a great extent of country. The town has a small market on Saturdays, and a fair on St. Peter's day. In the reign of the Confessor a freeman, Ulric, enjoyed it. The Earl of Boulogne had it at the time of the survey. It was afterwards divided into the manors of Ardern or Arden-hall, Malgreffe, and Wythfield.

Ardern-hall stands at the east end of the town. It is the largest manor, and formerly comprized that of Malgreffe. Its ancient possessors, after the Earl of Boulogne, were a family of the name of Ardern, from which it derived its name. In 1122 Thomas Ardern and his son gave to the monks of Bermondsey the tithe of corn of their lordship in Horndon, which was this estate. John de Lovetot in 1295 held a large

large portion of land here of Thomas de Ardern. Next the families of Fabel, Shaa, and Pooley, possessed it. It was afterwards purchased by the Kingsman family, in whom it remained. Ardern-hall and Horndon-place paid great and small tithes to a private impropriator; which tithes afterwards came to two sisters.

The manor of Malgreffe, or Malgraves. The mansion-house stands about a mile from this town, on the left-hand side of the road leading to Langdon hills. It derived its name from its ancient owners. In 1200 Arnulph Malgreffe paid two marks to the scutage of Normandy. Sir John Tyrell after this family in 1540 held it. Edward Archer, who died in 1600, held this manor, which by computation contained about 350 acres, and Malgrave-mead 10 acres. It has since that time been in the family of Andrews. Anne, daughter of Thomas Andrews, citizen of London, brought it to her husband, Thomas Cotton, Esq., of Conington in Cambridgeshire; from whom it descended to their daughter and heiress, Frances, wife of Dingley Afkham, Esq., of Conington, the present lord. The estate pays a modus of 13*s*. 4*d*. to the vicar.

The manor of Wythfield has a mansion-house, about a mile north of the church. The manor was distinct from the two already mentioned, as early as the time of Edward III.; for in 1337 Maud, wife of John de Handlo, held it. In 1372 Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Essex, held a fourth part of a knight's fee, which Abel de Wythfield held of him. The manor took its name from this person. Thomas Sampken, Esq., held it, and died without heirs. In 1607 Christopher Chibborn, Esq., had it; and he sold it to Thomas Wright, Gent. Geoffrey Tucker had it afterwards, who sold it to William Vernon, Gent. Jasper Kingsman, Esq., of the Middle Temple, had it next, and died in 1704, and it continued in that family. Thomas Highbed and Daniel Caldwell, Esq., had lands in the parish; the former in 1555, when he was burnt for heresy; the latter in 1634. The monastery of Bromehale in Berkshire had lands here, which Henry VIII. in 1522 granted to St. John's College, Cambridge. The abbey of Colchester had tithes here out of several lands in the parish.

The church is dedicated to St. Peter, and is pleasantly situated in the middle of the town. It has a chancel and north aisle, and a tower embattled with a shingled spire on the top, which contains five bells. It belonged formerly to Barking nunnery, to which the great tithes were appropriated, and they had the advowson of the vicarage. They remained in them till the suppression, when they came to the crown. Henry VIII. in 1544 granted both to the dean and chapter of St. Paul's

in London, in whom they have ever since continued. The vicarage was augmented with Queen Anne's bounty in 1719, and Bishop Robinson gave to it 225/. Here is a custom at the churching of a woman for her to give a white cambric handkerchief to the minister as an offering. The same custom is observed in the Isle of Thanet. The parish is rated to the land-tax at 1026*l.* 3*s.* The living is valued at 49*l.* in the king's books, and is discharged.

D U N T O N.

DUNTON derives its name from the Saxon words, which mean hill and town. It is situated between the Thorndons. It is written in records with the addition of Wallet, which was as early as the reign of King Richard II., and probably from the name of a tenant. In the reign of the Confessor the parish belonged to a priest, a freeman, and to Uluin. At the survey it was part of the large possessions of Odo Bishop of Bayeux. The parish was divided into two manors afterwards: Dunton-hall and Frierne: the former stands near the church. Upon Odo's being deprived of his possessions, his half-brother, William the Conqueror, gave the estate to the noble family of Albini, founders of the abbey of Bec in Normandy. In 1395 this monastery demised to John de Pickenham and Elizabeth his wife the advowson of the church, and the reversion of the manor after the death of Alice, late wife of Sir Thomas Tyrell. Humphrey de Waleden, who died in 1330, held this manor for life, the reversion being in Margery, widow of John de Say, and her son. In 1358 John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, held it of the prior of Okeburne; and Thomas, his son, in 1370. Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Essex, held, at the time of his death in 1372, one fee in Dunton, which the abbot of Waltham Holy-crofs had near Hareward Stoke; and also a tenth part of a knight's fee here called Sterling Shell, of the prior of Okeburne. This manor, as it belonged to a foreign priory, was seized either by Edward III. or Henry V.; but when and to whom it was granted does not appear. The advowson was in the family of Inglefield, who presented to the living from 1422 to 1451, and therefore probably had a grant of the estate. In 1442 Sir Lewis John died in possession of this manor of Dunton Weylott, with the advowson of the church. After its confiscation, in the reign of Edward III., it remained for some time in the crown. About 1467 Edward IV. gave it to

Thomas

Thomas Wilmot, vicar of Ashford in Kent, and his successors. Thomas Wilmot presented to the rectory from 1467 to 1479; and his successor, William Sutton, master of the college of Ashford, in 1496. Upon the suppression of monasteries the crown became possessed of all their lands. In 1530 John Ponett had licence to alienate the manor and villa of Dounton Waylett, with the advowson of the church, to John Cheke. After that the provost and fellows of King's College, in Cambridge, seem to have possessed them both. They presented in 1532, and have ever since been possessed of the manor and rectory.

The manor of Friern belongs to St. Bartholomew's Hospital in London, and is let out upon lease. Friern-hall, the mansion-house, lies in a bottom, about half a mile north from the church.

Dunton Waylett, a capital messuage in this parish, is above a mile north from the church, and belonged to George Drywood, Gent., who died in 1603. He had other lands in the parish.

The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and is pleasantly situated on rising ground; it is of one pace with the chancel, and has a spire. The rectory was at first in the gift of the Albini family; then in the abbey of Bec in Normandy; afterwards in the Inglefield family; and in the masters of the hospital or chantry of Ashford in Kent; and since the year 1532 in King's College, Cambridge. The parish of Dunton is rated to the land-tax at 850*l*. The living is not discharged, and is valued at 14*l*. 13*s*. 4*d*. in the king's books.

B U L F A N.

THIS parish lies south of Dunton. In it is a brook, which runs down to Purfleet on the west. It overflows so much of the country here, that it forms a marsh at Orset, called Orset Fens, and another called Bulfan Fen. It derives its name from this fen and the word bull, as it were a bull's fen. There is a tradition that the tide used to flow so strong by Purfleet up this brook, that boats could sail up to Orset-hall, or higher. It belonged formerly to the nunnery of Barking. The manor and advowson continued in that house till the dissolution of monasteries. Bulfan-hall stands near the east end of the church. The Wic stands in a bottom. In 1546 King Henry VIII. granted the manor of Bulvan-hall and the advowson of the church

to Edward Bury and his heirs. He was a justice of peace and of the bed-chamber to Henry. It continued in this family alone till 1692, when Henry Bury and Jasper Williams presented to the living. The manor and advowson are shared between the families of Bury and Kingfman.

The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and is of one pace with the chancel. It has a spire. The church was in the gift of Barking-abbey till the dissolution. The parish is rated to the land-tax at 737 $\frac{1}{2}$ l. The living is not discharged, and is valued in the king's books at 23 $\frac{1}{2}$ l.

O R S E T.

THE name of this parish appears to have been taken from the Saxon word, which imports Horse's-heath. Here are some ancient entrenchments and fortifications inclosing four or five acres. Before the Conquest this parish belonged to the fee of London, but afterwards part of it was given to Eustace Earl of Boulogne, which he enjoyed at the time of the survey. These formed the two manors of Orset-hall and Loft-hall.

The manor-house of Orset-hall stands a very short way to the north-west of the church. Bishop Bonner had a house here, in which he resided; most of it is now demolished. The manor and estate were in the fee of London till the beginning of the reign of Elizabeth, when, upon Bonner's deprivation, the manor came into the queen's possession, and it continued in the crown during the remainder of her reign. In 1635 we find it in the possession of — Latham, Gent. Soon after John Hall, attorney, of London, held it. Richard Letchmere and his son, being entitled to a moiety of the manor from his having purchased it of the last heiress of the Hatt family, sold it in 1743 to Richard Baker, Esq., of Stepney. Richard Letchmere the younger sold a moiety of the demesne lands to Mr. Baker for 2900 $\frac{1}{2}$ l., and in 1744 a moiety of the manor. Mr. Letchmere dying soon after, his widow sold the quit-rents and an undivided moiety of the manor for 1800 $\frac{1}{2}$ l. In 1746 Peter Le Febvre, Esq., of Walthamstow, and his wife, for 2900 $\frac{1}{2}$ l., sold the other moiety to Richard Baker, Esq. Mr. Baker died in 1751.

Loft-hall, otherwise Loft-hall, is the other manor in this parish, and the part belonging to Eustace Earl of Boulogne. Stephen de Bockton, who died in 1286, held the

the estate. Stephen de Abyndon in 1305 held lands here. In 1463 this estate was given by Sir Gerard Braybrooke, junior, Edmund Hampden, Esq., John Boys, Esq., and the Rev. Roger Albrighton, to maintain a chantry for one chaplain to perform divine service at the altar of St. Mary, under St. Mary's chapel, within the Bishop of London's palace, joining to the church of St. Paul, to pray for the good state of the Bishop Robert Braybrooke. After the suppression of chantries, this manor, lately belonging to the chantry, remained in the crown till Queen Elizabeth, in 1559, granted it to Edward Baesh, Esq., and Henry Parker, to hold in socage. In 1563 Owen Clunne, citizen and draper of London, held the manor: Anne, wife of John Sheppard of Balcote, Shropshire, was his heir. In 1616 Francis Downes, Esq., held the manor of Orfet. The manor of Loft-hall is but very small. Here are other lands.

Sabur, or Seborrow-hall, is supposed to be in the three parishes of Orfet, Mucking, and Chadwell. It stands on the right-hand side of the road leading from Horndon on the Hill to Chadwell. It formerly belonged to the hospital of St. Mary Without Bishopgate, London. In 1543 Henry VIII. granted this manor to John Wiseman, of Felstead: it was afterwards in William Strangman, Esq., and has since been purchased for the rector of Limehouse, in Middlesex.

Crondon is a considerable parcel of land, which, though above ten miles north from Orfet, between the parishes of Stock and Margaretting, is still a hamlet in the parish of Orfet. It was formerly a park, and has for some years past been turned into farms belonging to Lord Petre, except a small portion. Crondon pays to the poor-rates of Orfet. That part which lies in the parish of Stock pays tithes to the rector of Stock. Part of the endowment of Ingatestone hospital is 48*l.* per annum out of Crondon. Here are several benefactions to the parish. Thomas Hotoffe of Orfet gave 40 acres of land to the parishioners. Ambrose Gilbert gave 5*l.* yearly to the poor. Alice, wife of Isaac Hemings, in 1643, gave a considerable portion of land. There are also some alms-houses. A farm in this parish, consisting of a messuage and about 100 acres of copyhold land, is given to the curate of the chapel of Southgate, in Edmonton.

The church is dedicated to St. Giles and All Saints: it stands in the street in a pleasant situation: it is large, and consists of a double pace. The chancel contains a north and south chapel. It has a brick tower, and a spire of wood. Until the reign of Queen Elizabeth the patronage of this valuable rectory appears to have been in the

Bishops of London. A rector was formerly presented by Edward I., and another by the Bishop of London; between whom there was a contest. It was probably determined by the lord chancellor's presentation. Queen Elizabeth presented three times, reviving the pretensions of the crown in King Edward's time. Elizabeth, or James I., granted it to Sir Robert Cecil, who exchanged it with the Bishop of London for the advowson of Cheshunt. The rector pays a pension of 6*l.* per annum to the chancellor of St. Paul. Thomas Hotoft founded a chantry in this church, and endowed it so well, that at the time of the suppression it was valued at 7*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* The parish is rated to the land-tax at 1840*l.* The living is not discharged, and is valued at 29*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* in the king's books.

LITTLE THURROCK.

THIS parish is one of the three Thurrocks that are in this county along the side of the river Thames: the two others are in Chafford. This is called East Thurrock. Uluein, a freeman, held this estate under the Confessor. At the time of the survey it was styled the fee of the Bishop of London. The value of this manor, at the time of the survey, was set so low, that, in order to make three manors, as in time it did, it must have been very much improved, or some parts of the neighbouring parishes taken into it. One part appears to have continued in the Bishops of London till the reign of Edward III., and the rest to have been held of the crown by serjeanty at a very early period.

The parish now contains three manors: Little Thurrock, Torell's Hall, and Berewes.

The manor of Little or East Thurrock has a mansion-house, which stands very near the church. There is no early account of it: about the time of King Edward II. or III. it was in a family named De Gravesend. For some time it was in the family of Carew, who presented eight times to the living. William Skreen and others presented in 1408; John Berdefeld and others in 1429 and 1437; from which it is probable that they were in possession of the manor. In 1539 Thomas Sampson, or Sampkin, Esq., held the manor and advowson of the church. This manor was afterwards in the crown, and granted by King Philip and Queen Mary in 1558 to Sir Thomas White and others. The manor was again in the crown in

Queen Elizabeth's time, who presented from 1567 to 1597. Sir John Lewes held it in 1598. King James I. granted it to Robert Stratford afterwards. Sir Thomas Lake presented to the living in 1605: it continued in the Lake family till Abraham Fothergill, Gent., presented in 1681; Sir Robert Dashwood, Bart., and others, in 1697. The estate was afterwards mortgaged to — Newburgh, Esq., of Ireland, and purchased of him by Francis Hayes, Esq., of the Temple, whose heir and nephew sold it to Mr. James Green, cornfactor, in London, in 1743; and he disposed of it, with the advowson, to Ebenezer Muffel, Esq., who died in October 1764. The manor holds no court, and out of it is paid a fee-farm rent of 18*l.* 10*s.*

Torell's-hall stands near the pound by the side of the road. This manor was derived from the other, and was as early as the reign of Henry II. in the Torell family. It must have had a new grant from the crown since the bishop was the lord, because the serjeantcy by which it was held could not be performed by a bishop. That grand serjeantcy consisted of being napperer to the king, or having care of the king's nappery or table-linen on the day of his coronation. It continued in the Torell family until Anne Torell married Henry Joscelyn, Esq., fourth son of Thomas Joscelyn. She died in 1589. Sir Thomas Joscelyn, the surviving son and heir, alienated the estate to Sir Thomas Leveson. It afterwards belonged to Nicholas Grice, Esq., and being sold by a decree of chancery to pay his debts, was purchased by Colonel Henry Cornwall, of Bradwardin Castle, in Herefordshire; from him it came to General Cornwall, who left the estate to a female who had lived with him for some years. She married, after the general's death, Mr. Moore of Ireland, to whom at her death she bequeathed the estate; and he left it to his brother Blundell Moore, Esq.

The manor of Berewes, now called Barons, is derived also from Little Thurrock. The house stands on the left-hand side of the road leading to Chadwell, into which parish this manor extends. The accounts of this estate are very imperfect. Roger de Mortimer, Earl of March, who died in 1360, had one fee in Little Thurrock, called Berewes, which William Squery held of him. John Squery held it of the widow of Sir John Grey in 1425. Thomas Springe in 1523 died in possession of it under Henry Torell, Esq. In 1567 Clement Syseley and Anne his wife, and Agnes Kidderminster, widow, delivered possession to Joanna Laxton. The estate next belonged to John Russell, Esq., of North Okendon. There are some other lands in the parish.

The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and is of one pace with the chancel,
and

and nearly of the same width. In the south wall of the chancel, on the inside, are arches supported by pillars of the Tuscan order. The rectory appears to have been chiefly appendant to the manor of Thurrock-hall. Little Thurrock is rated to the land-tax at 794^l. The living is valued at 13^l. 12^s. 6^d., and is not discharged.

CHADWELL.

THIS parish takes its name probably from St. Chad and well, or from the Saxon, which signifies cold. It might also be taken from the great chalk pits or wells, which were dug here, and made to serve as granaries to the ancient Britons. The Danes are reported to have used them as receptacles of their plunder. Camden has described them as spacious caverns in a chalky cliff, built artificially of stone to the height of ten fathoms, and straight at the top. Dr. Derham, who was a curious observer, describes them as being of fifty feet deep, some of seventy and eighty: there are several of them. A cow fell down that of fifty feet depth, and escaped unhurt, as the bottom was sandy. Over the midst of the hole is an arch of two hundred feet of chalk. These holes lie near the highway, within the compass of six acres of ground leading from Stifford to Chadwell: some of them are within the bounds of the parish of Little Thurrock; and in East Tilbury is a field called Cave Field, in which there is a horizontal passage to the cavern. Tradition says, that here were the famous golden mines of King Cunobelin. Upon this idea, and countenanced by a passage in Dr. Plot's Natural History of Oxfordshire, one of the projects or bubbles in 1720 was for extracting gold or silver here. It appears to have been a received opinion that silver mines have been in England; if they were not, it might be difficult to say how the large Danish tributes, called Danegelds, were paid here at that time.

In the reign of the Confessor the owners of land in this parish were Aluric, a king's thane; Edwolt, the sheriff; and Godman, a freeman. At the time of the survey, the Bishop of London held the chief part under the title of his fee. Odo Bishop of Bayeux had the next considerable share. The lands were afterwards divided into the manors of Chadwell, Ingleby, Longhouse, and Biggin.

The manor of Chadwell has a manor-house standing near the church, called Chadwell-hall. The earliest account of it, after the survey, is about 1250, when a family, surnamed De Wokindon, held it under the Bishop of London, with the advowson of the

the church. Nicholas de Halaughton, heir of Joan, daughter and heiress of Sir Nicholas de Wokindon, claimed free warren in Chadwell and others. Sir Nicholas de Halton presented to the church in 1336, and held the manor of the Bishop of London. Sir Roger de Northwood presented to the rectory in right of his wife, daughter of Sir Nicholas Halton, in 1362; Margaret Barry, widow of John Barry, in 1389, her second husband; and then Walter Grey, lord of the manor, her third husband. John de Bois had the estate afterwards, which he held of the Bishop of London, and presented in 1409; Nicholas de Rykhill in 1422; afterwards Philip Malpas, citizen and draper of London, till 1461. Elizabeth, his only daughter and heiress, married Sir Thomas Cooke; Anne Cooke married Sir Edward Sydenham; and Vere married Sir Charles Gawdry: they transferred the estate after it had remained in the family a considerable length of time: the latter had it to 1683: it was after that in Thomas Velley, Gent.; and then purchased by Sir Robert Smyth, Bart. His descendant, Sir Trafford Smyth, sold the manor, advowson, and estate, to Mr. Richard Hyder, of Grey's Thurrock, for the sum of 3250*l.*, who has since disposed of the advowson.

The mansion-house of the manor of Ingleby is now demolished; it stood where the court is held near to two trees; but there are some buildings belonging to the demesnes near the ferry. It was originally part of the Bishop of London's fee. In 1337 Stephen de Gravesend, bishop, had it. In 1364 Joan, widow of Sir Thomas Gravesend, holding this in dower, released her right to Thomas de Ingelby; from which family it derived the name. After the Ingleby family it came to Peter Symonds, who died in 1587. The estate now belongs to the poor of Winchester.

The manor of Longhouse, otherwise Chadwell-place, is not found in records till the reign of Henry VI. Sir William Skrene, who died in 1430, held jointly with his wife this manor. Sir Thomas Tyrell in 1476 held it. His descendants do not appear to have enjoyed it, nor is it known who did between his time and that of the present possessor, John Ruffel, Esq., of North Okendon.

The manor of Biggin is on the left side of the road leading from Chadwell to Little Thurrock. The word signifies a habitation, or manor-house. It belonged to the abbey of Stratford Langthorne. In 1338 Reginald Gobion and his son gave lands to the abbey, 1 messuage, 9 acres of arable, and 31 of marsh, in Chaldewell; and in 1400 Edward Mille gave them 1 messuage, 100 acres of arable, 4 of meadow, and 200 of marsh, in Caldewell, East and West Tilbury, and Little Thurrock.

Thurrock. These constituted the manor of Biggin. In 1478 Sir Ralph Joffyn held it under the abbey of Stratford. After the suppression Henry VIII. in 1544 granted the estate to the dean and chapter of St. Paul, who have ever since enjoyed it.

Cowpers is mentioned as another manor in this parish. In 1595 Roger Tasker held it.

The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and stands on the side of a hill, and is of one pace and almost the same breadth with the chancel. At the west end is a tower of stone. The rectory has been always appendant on the manor of Chadwell-hall; but it has been alienated from it. The parish is rated to the land-tax at 737*l*. When Tilbury-fort was enlarged by Charles II. the road was turned into Chadwell. The living is valued at 17*l*. 13*s*. 4*d*., and is not discharged.

T I L B U R Y.

THERE are three parishes of this name in Essex, two of them contiguous, and lying near the river Thames; the other in Hinckford hundred, called Near Clare, because it is within a few miles of that town. The name is derived either from the Saxon, husbandmen, or a tile; and a city, town, or castle; probably because here was anciently a town, or fortification, one of the first tiled in this island; or a strong place, which served for a retreat to the country people in case of invasion.

West Tilbury lies west of the other by the side of the river Thames, from which it derives its name. In the seventh century here was a considerable town, though now it is but a poor village: for when St. Chad converted the East Saxons to Christianity, and was consecrated bishop of the diocese, he fixed one of his episcopal sees at Tilbury. At the time of the survey Sweyn and his tenants held the parish, which in the Saxon time had belonged to Aluric, a priest. It was divided afterwards into the manors of West Tilbury and of Condovers.

The manor of West Tilbury has a manor-house, called West Tilbury-hall, and stands a short way north-west of the church. Sweyn's grandson, Henry de Essex, hereditary standard-bearer, lost his estates through his cowardice. A late possessor took his name from this place. Robert de Tilbury, about the reign of Henry II., held the manor, and took his name from it. Richard, his son, had a fair and market here granted

granted to him. In 1319 John de Tilbury granted it to Richard Abell, with the advowson of the church and chapel. John de Chavent, heir and cousin of Sir Peter de Chavent, granted in 1344 to Thomas Lodewake and his heirs 4*l.* a year out of this manor. In 1348 John Charteney, citizen and merchant of London, released to Sir William Vaughan, and his wife and heirs, his right of the manor of West Tilbury. The estate was afterwards divided among female heirs, and was then subdivided. Margaret, wife of Sir Richard Mutton, had a sixth part in 1420. This portion then came to Nicholas Fulke. The same year Philip Bokilton, Esq., had a sixth part. In 1422 John Fulke passed by fine a moiety of the third part of this manor to John Harpur of Hereford; and in 1436 released all his right to him. Margaret, wife of Sir Baldwin Strange, held a third part of Richard Duke of York. Elizabeth, wife of Robert Molineux, was her daughter and heiress. Thomas Hethe had a moiety of it, and the advowson of the chapel, which in 1457 he passed to John Harpyr, Esq., of Rapsale. Nicholas Jorsslyn had the other half in 1503. Joan, wife of Thomas Smyth, in 1536, held a moiety and the advowson. Thomas Smyth in 1560 alienated a fourth part to John Throgmorton, Esq.; and after that the estate was in Richard Jenoure, Esq., of Bigods, in Great Dunmow. Anne, daughter of Sir Kenelm Jenoure, who died in 1629, had it, and was married to — Dell, Esq., and afterwards to Sir Richard Hatton. Mr. John Kellaway, who died in 1737, bought this estate of Thomas Hatton, Esq., and then sold it to Richard Mickelfield, Esq.; from whom it came to his nephew Richard Hunt, Esq.

The manor of Condovers has a mansion standing on a green near the parsonage. The first mention of it is in the reign of Henry VIII. Edward Baker, Esq., in 1535 held 1 messuage, 100 acres of arable, 100 of pasture, 200 of marsh, with appurtenances called Condovers, in East and West Tilbury. This estate was afterwards in Philip Howard, Esq., who sold it to John Brewster: here are other small estates. Lands in this parish, called Le Wyke, are part of the endowment of Chelmsford school.

Tilbury-fort is opposite to Gravesend, and is a regular fortification built at first by Henry VIII., being then only a kind of block-house. After the Dutch had come up the river in 1667, and burnt our ships at Chatham, Charles II. directed it to be enlarged. It was planned by Sir Martin Beckman, with bastions, which are the largest of any in England. Queen Elizabeth had a camp here, when the Spanish Armada was threatening this country. The camp was where the windmill now

stands. The fort has a double moat, the innermost of which is 180 feet broad, with a good counterscarp, a covered way, ravelins, and tenailles, and a platform on which 106 cannon are placed from 24 to 46 pounders, besides smaller ones planted between them; and the bastions and curtains also planted with guns. On the land side also are two redoubts of brick, and here the whole level may be laid under water. The four proconsular ways made in Great Britain crossed each other here. Great part of the land in this level, which is formed of those unhealthy marshes called the Three Hundreds, is held by farmers, cow-keepers, and grazing-butchers of London, who generally stock them with Leicestershire and Lincolnshire wethers, which they buy in Smithfield in September and October.

Within the lands belonging to the manor of West Tilbury, a famous medicinal water was discovered in 1727 by Mr. John Kellaway, who made a well there in 1734. The springs lie about 12 feet deep from the surface of the ground, which is a hill at least 30 feet above the marshes, in a hard gravel. About the depth of 13 feet is a bed of sand about 30 feet deep, which, lying between the spring and the marshes, prevents any communication that way; and the well is within 40 yards of the extreme point of the hill. The waters, from various experiments, proved their qualities to be good; they have been found beneficial in hæmorrhages, scurvy, diabetes, and loss of appetite. They can be carried to the East Indies and back again, without losing their quality, and are the only kind of water of this sort found in this part of England.

The church, dedicated to St. James, stands pleasantly at the end of a green, on a rising ground, which affords a delightful prospect towards the Thames and the Channel. It has a spire and five bells. Here was formerly a tower of stone, which served as a sea mark, but has since fallen down. On the north side of the church was an aisle. The rectory was at first appendant to the manor. In 1345 John de Poulteney gave the advowson to the master or warden of the charity founded by him to the honour of Corpus Christi in the church of St. Laurence in London, and to the twelve chaplains. They only presented once. The patronage has been in the crown ever since.

West Lee Chapel stood where the fort now is. There was another at Langdon, called East Lee Chapel; it is not known why it was so called, unless from the Saxon word, which signifies pasture, or unploughed ground. This chapel was dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen: the founder is not known, but supposed to be of the

the family of Tilbury. Sir Thomas Vaughan, who died in 1362, held the manor of West Tilbury. The parish is rated to the land-tax at 625*l*. The living is not discharged, and is valued at 20*l*. in the king's books.

EAST TILBURY.

THIS parish is also situated by the Thames, opposite Tilbury Hope. In the Confessor's reign it contained only one manor, but was afterwards divided into five; that of East Tilbury, St. Clere's, Gobyons, Southall, and Gossaline.

The mansion-house of the manor of East Tilbury stands near the church on the west. In the reign of Henry III. the estate was in the Kewseck, or Kameseck family. The next heir was William, son of Philip de Welle: he died in possession of this manor and the advowson of the church in 1349. Sir Henry Coggeshall presented to the living in 1368 and 1371; but it is uncertain whether he possessed the manor. The estate was purchased, together with Sabury-hall, as an endowment of the rectory of St. Anne at Limehouse.

The manor of St. Clere's was so called from its most ancient owners upon record. In 1266 William de Sancto Claro, or Clere, held in the village of East Tilbury 140 acres of arable, 8 of meadow, a marsh for feeding 200 sheep, and other things. It appears to be one of the three knights fees in this parish, held under Humphry Earl of Hereford and Essex, who died in 1372. The manor was afterwards in a family named Moseley, or Musle. Thomas Bocket, by marrying a Moseley, came into possession, and died in 1477. Sir John Scott next had it after this family: he died in 1484. Some years ago Sir Charles Inglefield had it; and then sold it to Thomas Grant, who in 1716 disposed of it to Sir William Humphreys, Bart., of Barking, in whose family it remained.

The manor of Gobyons, of which the mansion-house stands about a mile north of the church near the river, derived its name from a family, which has left its name to several places in the county. Sir Thomas Gobyon held a knight's fee in East Tilbury under the noble family of Bohuns, Earls of Hereford and Essex, and which was held afterwards by Edmund Kemeseck. Sir Richard Sutton had it in 1395. Thomas Bydeford next possessed it; and John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, in 1512. Edward Laurence, Esq., in 1606 possessed it, and Champion Branfill, Esq., of Upminster-hall.

The manor of Gossalyne, or Gossaline, has a mansion-house about three quarters of a mile north-west of the church. It took its name from an ancient family,

mentioned under Ging Ralph, or Ingrave. Richard Goffaline and Alice his wife held in East and West Tilbury 1 messuage, 150 acres of arable, 120 of marsh, and 5*l.* yearly rent of William Barentyne and others. In 1354 John Merlawe and his heirs had the manor and lands of Sir Richard Goffaline. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth William Strangman and Anne his wife held it : Sir Thomas Wiseman held it in 1635 of the honour of Mandeville.

The manor of Southall is in the south part of the parish. The mansion-house was a great way off, in the marshes : it is now down. In 1372 Edmund, son of Simon, held a knight's fee in East Tilbury of the Earl of Hereford. It appears to have been once in the Gobyon family. This estate is now appropriated to the repairs of Rochester bridge ; but it is not ascertained by whom or when it was given.

The church is dedicated to St. Catherine, and consists of a body and north aisle. The tower was of stone, and embattled : it stood on the south side near the west end of the church. In our wars with the Dutch in the seventeenth century some of their guns on board the ships battered it down, as its height offended them. There is now a wooden frame. The church was originally a rectory and sinecure, with a vicar under it as early as 1325. The patronage of the rectory being in the lords of the manor of East Tilbury, the families of Kamefeck, Wells, and Coggeshall, and the rector, presented to the vicarage till the year 1389. Then John Lord Cobham had it appropriated to his college at Cobham. At the suppression the vicarage came to the crown, and has since remained with it. A chantry was founded here in 1328 by Sir Thomas Gobyon, who endowed it with lands, &c. At the suppression the lands were granted to Thomas Audley, nephew of the lord chancellor. Here was also another chantry ; the endowment at the suppression was granted to William Shouldham, Gent. In this parish was the old ferry over the river Thames. The Higham causeway, yet visible, points to the place of the old ferry. This is justly supposed to have been the very place where the Emperor Claudius crossed the river Thames in pursuit of the Britons. This parish is rated to the land-tax at 967*l.* The vicarage is valued at 49*l.* per annum, and is discharged.

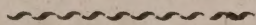
M U C K I N G.

THIS parish, like the two former, borders upon the river Thames. The name seems to be derived from the Saxon words, an heap or great, and meadow or pasture.

pasture. Both before and after the Conquest it belonged to the nunnery of Barking. The lordship was early divided into two manors, that of Mucking-hall, which remained in the hands of the nunnery till Henry VIII.th's reign, and that of Waltons. It was in a family of that name as early as the time of Edward III.

The manor of Waltons belonged to the family of Vere, afterwards Earls of Oxford, which they held under the abbesss of Barking. Of the same abbesss were held in this parish, by the Shaa and Browne families, lands and tenements called Frodmans, Brokis and Brillis Crofts, and Frodman's Heath; and by Humphrey Gatton, 1 cottage, 200 acres of arable, and 50 of pasture and meadow, in the reigns of Henry VII. and VIII. After the suppression of religious houses King Edward VI. in 1547 granted the manor of Mucking and lands there, called Waltons, with the rectory and advowson of the church, to the dean and chapter of St. Paul, and their successors. Mucking-hall stands on the south side of the church. Tillington and other parcels of lands in this parish belonged to Philip Travers in 1636. In the parish, in a way leading from Orset to Stanford, is a large house in a bottom, called Jenkins.

The church is dedicated to St. John the Baptist: it consists of one south aisle. At the west end is a stone tower, with a spire. Mucking is rated to the land-tax at 709/. The living is valued at 10/. in the king's books, and is not discharged.



STANFORD LE HOPE.

THIS parish lies to the eastward of the last and of Orset. It took its name from a stone or paved ford, where is now a bridge; Le Hope is added to distinguish it from the other Stanford; and is a bay or winding of the river, where ships often ride, either inward or outward bound. Seamen have given it the name of Hope, because they find it a safe anchoring place, after they have passed the dangers of the Goodwin and other sands near the mouth of the Thames: they have taken the name from the cable belonging to the anchor, which they term Hope. The accounts of this parish are very unsatisfactory; it appears to consist of lands, anciently divided into two distinct districts; the one called Stanford, the other Haffingbrook. Besides the parish church, here was a free chapel, the advowson of which went along with abbots' manor, the estate belonging to Waltham-abbey. In the reign of the Con-
fessor

feffor feventeen freemen, and Alaric and Uluuin, were the poffeffors here. At the time of the furvey Odo Bifhop of Bayeux, Sweyn of Effex, and Saffelin, held it. The lands were afterwards divided into thefe three manors: Haffingbrook, Calbourne, and Abbot's Hall.

The manor of Haffingbrook is the chief manor of the parifh, and is fo called from the brook which runs by it. Haffingbrook-hall ftands about three quarters of a mile north of the church, and is a ftately ancient building, built by Cuthbert Fetherfton in the reign of James I. Turolde and his fon had it upon the earlieft records; and after him the Montchenfy family poffeffed it. Adomare de Valence, fon of Joan de Valence, her coufin and heir, and Earl of Pembroke, next came into it, after it had been in the family of the Earls of Oxford, by marrying with a Montchenfy. His widow enjoyed it for many years, and died in 1376, being his third wife. The pofterity of Ifabel, one of her husband's fifters, married to Lord Bergavenny; and of Elizabeth, another fifter, to Gilbert Talbot, fucceffively inherited the eftate. John Haftings, Earl of Pembroke, dying in 1389, this manor came to Sir Richard Talbot. After this it appears to have come to Reginald de Grey of Ruthyn, fprung from the family of Adomare de Valence, and then to Richard Rede in 1434. William Wettenhall had it in 1457. Sir George Neville had it from William Wettenhall and Reginald Peckham, Efq. The eftate was afterwards in George Wettenhall, Efq., who difpofed of it to Richard Champion. It was next in the Fetherfton family. They were of great antiquity in the north of England, and came from Durham. Cuthbert Fetherfton built Haffingbrook-hall: he died in 1615. It has continued in the family fince that time.

The manor of Calbourne, or Canvers, belongs to the fame family. In 1342 John de Newenton had it. In 1465 Richard Walsh and Richard Pigge, Gent., releafed to William Henify, of London, grocer, all their right here and appurtenances: and in 1607 this manor belonged to Reginald Hallingworth, Efq.

Abbot's manor was fo ftyled, becaufe it belonged to the abbey of Waltham. The manfion-houfe, called Abbot's-hall, ftands about a mile north-eaft of the church. Alaric and Uluuin, and then Saffelin, held it by the name of Stantmere and Winthille. William de Septemmollis, or Semeles, gaye it to Waltham-abbey, with the advowfon of a chapel here; but there is no date attached to it. At the fuppreffion this eftate was farmed by Robert Pake at 20*l.* per annum. In 1543 Henry VIII. granted it by the name of the manor of Stanford Hope to Walter Farre, alias Gillingham, and his

heirs. Edward VI. granted it to Robert Curfon and his heirs; but Walter Farre remained in possession of it till his death in 1590. The estate was, after it had continued in the Farre family, in Thomas Alleyn, D.D., rector of the parish, who died in 1677: he left it to his son, whose daughter and heir brought it to William Ashby, Esq., in marriage, of Breakspear, in Harefield. It came afterwards to the Rev. Thomas Alleyn, vicar of Cookham, in Berkshire.

In this manor was a free chapel, dedicated to St. Nicolas, endowed with fourteen acres of glebe, and the tithes of Abbot's-hall and of Cory or Curr marsh. Here was once the church of Stanford distinct from that of Haffingbrook, which the monastery of Waltham, in whose patronage this chapel was, for their own convenience, named a free chapel, though it is found to be, as a parish church, endowed with glebe and tithe. In 1548 the messuage and tenement called St. Nicolas Free Chapel, with all the premises, were granted to Thomas Golding and Walter Cely. The original grant is now in the chapel of the Rolls, which determined a law-suit, begun in 1712, between the lessee of St. Nicolas's chapel, who claimed tithes from other farms in this parish than those specified in the grant, and the rector of Stanford, when the latter recovered the right upon producing this authority. This free chapel, with appurtenances, lately belonged to John May, who, with his wife, in 1744, passed them by fine to William Bland of Wennington. A tenement and orchard in Fobbing are let to this parish for the use of the poor at 3*l.* per annum; from Earls Hope marsh, 1*l.* a year to the church, and 1*l.* a year to the poor; besides other small charities which are here added.

The church stands upon rising ground, and is dedicated to St. Margaret; it is upon a green where several roads meet; and consists of a body and two aisles. There is a tower, in which are five bells. The rectory has been always appendant to the manor of Haffingbrook. In Stanford le Hope was formerly a chapel called St. Mary's chapel, and granted to Thomas Golding. The parish is rated to the land-tax at 978*l.* The rectory is valued at 17*l.* 19*s.* 9½*d.* in the king's books, and is not discharged.

C O R R I N G H A M.

THIS parish lies upon the Thames, and in an eastern direction from the last. It is not easy to determine whence the first syllable is derived; the second signifies
pasture

pasture ground; and the latter a habitation. At the time of the Confessor it belonged to a freeman; and at that of the survey, it was in the Bishop of London. Odo Bishop of Bayeux had taken from it half a hide, which probably joined to his manor of Hassingbrook, in Stanford. These lands were afterwards divided into the three following manors; that of Corringham and Dungefyll, that of Old-hall, and Coggars.

The manor of Corringham has a hall standing near the church, and has a pleasant prospect over the Thames into Kent. The Baud family are the first possessors which are found here under the Bishop of London. This is an old family, originally from Baden in Germany; they were at Corringham as early as the reign of King John. Although persons of this name continued patrons of the rectory till 1599, yet the manor seems to have been in the hands of others. George Blanerhasset, Esq., had it in 1540; John Bride in 1555; John Brewode, Esq., in 1559. Sir Henry Anderson, who died in 1605, held the manor and 500 acres of land, and the advowson of the church. Sir Edward Spencer, Knight, had it in 1637, and presented to the living: soon after that it came into the family of Biddulph, of Ledbury, in Herefordshire, who have presented to the rectory since the year 1669.

The manor of Old-hall, the mansion-house of which stands about a quarter of a mile from the church, was rebuilt some years since. In 1746 Richard Wells enjoyed it in right of his wife; and Thomas Fisher in 1508. In 1553 a fine passed between Thomas Docra and William Scott: in 1554 Thomas Docra and his wife passed the same fine to Thomas Crawley, who held a court here in 1573. After the Crawley family William Moxon, Gent., was possessor of it.

The manor of Coggars has a house standing by the side of the road leading from Corringham to Stanford le Hope. In 1746 Sir Thomas Tyrell held the manor of Richard Wells, and Sir Robert Tyrell in 1508 held it of Thomas Fisher, Gent.; George Peale had it afterwards. Marshes here called Swilnesse, Hanford, Wadewic, Southlandwic, and Great Ilward, belonged to John Petre, Esq., in 1622; as also another called Ouse. There is an alms-house for two dwellers here, endowed with about two acres of land.

The church stands on a green, and is dedicated to the Virgin Mary: it consists of a body and north aisle. The chancel has a north chapel for a chantry. There are three bells in the tower, which is a large low building, with a shingled spire. The patronage of this rectory was for many years in the family of Baud. From 1391

to 1408 Sir Thomas Morwell and his widow presented to it. It has been ever since in the lords of Corringham-hall, except for a few turns. A chantry was founded in this church by William Le Baud about the year 1328, endowed with about 100 acres of land in different parishes, held of the Bishop of London by the service of bringing at the high altar of the church of St. Paul's, London, one buck and one doe yearly. The parish is rated to the land-tax at 843 $\frac{1}{2}$ l. The living stands in the king's books at 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ l. 13s. 4d., and is not discharged.

F O B B I N G.

THIS parish has the Thames on the south, into which a creek opens called Fobbing-creek, the mouth of which is called Hole-haven, near Shell-haven and Ridham-gap: it is north-east of Corringham. In the time of the Confessor Brictmar, a thane, possessed this manor; and after the Conquest, it was for many years in Eustace Earl of Boulogne. The manors of this parish are, that of Fobbing, and that of Hawkesbury.

In the manor of Fobbing, the hall stands near the church. After Domesday-book the oldest account that we have of this manor is, that Thomas Camvill held of the honour of Boulogne two fees in Fobbing and Senefield. The Camvill family appears to have made over their right to King Edward I. It was afterwards in the noble family of the Bohuns, Earls of Hereford and Essex. Eleanor, married to the Duke of Gloucester, inherited it among other great estates. Anne, sole heiress to the Bohuns' estate, had this upon partition with King Henry V., it being then valued at 43 $\frac{1}{2}$ l. 14s. 5d. By her marriage with two Earls of Stafford she brought the manor of Fobbing into that family. Humphrey, created Duke of Buckingham, was slain at the battle of Northampton in 1460, fighting for Henry VI. His widow, daughter of Ralph Neville, of Westmoreland, had the manor for her dowry: she re-married Walter Blunt, Lord Mountjoy. Henry Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, was instrumental in assisting Richard III. to his throne; but having attempted to dethrone him, lost his head, and his estates were confiscated. After the accession of Henry VII. Jasper Tudor, Earl of Hatfield, half-brother of Henry VI., Earl of Pembroke and Duke of Bedford, marrying Catherine Stafford, he inherited it in right of his wife. Edward, eldest son of Henry Duke of Buckingham, being re-

stored to his title and estates, enjoyed them till May 1521, when he was beheaded through the intrigues of Cardinal Wolsey, and thus forfeited his estates. Henry VIII. in 1522 granted the manor and advowson of the church to Sir Thomas Buller and his heirs male, afterwards created Earls of Wiltshire. His son being beheaded in 1537, the estate was given to Lady Mary, afterwards Queen, who had it in 1549; and Queen Elizabeth after her. George Tyrell possessed it in 1559 and 1565. In the reign of Charles I. the manor and demesne lands were separated. After that Sir George Whitmore, Knight, and Alderman of London, purchased the manor, and sold it in 1682 to Sir Thomas Daval, who died in 1712. Sir Thomas, his son, married Lydia Catherine Vanhatten; she re-married the Duke of Chandos, but enjoyed this manor as a jointure: it then went to Sir John Vanhatten. The court is kept at the hall, but upon courtesy. The demesne lands belonged in the seventeenth century to John Wood; then to — Lawton; and next to John Goffe; the last sold them to Henry Saunders, who farmed the hall. Mr. Willoughby, who married one of his daughters, purchased the shares of the other sisters. The estate was afterwards purchased by Mr. Robert Johnson of Low Layton, who died in 1749.

The manor of Hawkesbury belonged formerly to the abbey of Barking; and at the suppression the farm was let at 10*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.* Henry VIII. granted it in 1544 to the dean and chapter of St. Paul, and their successors; they have ever since enjoyed it. Here are some trees which have been a sea-mark, and are called Hawkesbury Bush.

The church is dedicated to St. Michael, and stands pleasantly on a rising ground, from whence is an extensive prospect over the marshes to the river. There is a south aisle belonging to both church and chancel, and a square tower of stone, containing five bells. The rectory was appendant to the manor of Fobbing-hall, and continued in it till the attainder of the Duke of Buckingham, when it came to the crown, in which it has ever since remained. The parish is rated to the land-tax at 741*l.* The living is valued at 21*l.* in the king's books, and is not discharged.

FANGE, OR VANGE.

THIS parish stands to the north of Fobbing; and a creek runs up to it out of the Thames. The name appears to be taken from the Saxon word, which signifies a hold;

hold; but from what cause is not to be determined; unless the creek might have served as a receptacle for the captives and booty taken from the inhabitants by the plundering Danes and Saxons. In the Confessor's reign the lands in this parish belonged to three freemen; at the time of the survey they were divided into two manors. Odo Bishop of Bayeux held what belonged to two of the freemen, and Ralph Peverell the other. They were early united into one manor. Vange-hall, the mansion-house, stands about half a mile north of the church; and is pleasantly situated on a hill. This estate for many years went along with Haffingbrook in the neighbouring parish of Stanford le Hope; and from about the year 1280 to 1577 was in the families of Montchenfy; Vere de Valence, Earl of Pembroke; Hastings, also Earl of Pembroke; Rede, and Wetenhall. Thomas Wetenhall in 1577 alienated the manor to Thomas Newman, Gent., of Quendon, who died in 1585, leaving Anne, his only daughter and heiress. In the mean time, in 1565 and 1572, William Tanfield, Esq., was lord of the manor. John Baker, Esq., held it in 1606. Sir Richard Baker, his son and heir, had it in 1625. Charles Tooker, who died in the same year, is also reported to have held the manor, with appurtenances, and the advowson of the church, of the king in capite. After this the manors were divided. Paul Viscount Banning had the manor, and compounded with the crown for disforesting it. The estate is now parcelled out. Two thirds of it came from the Tookers to Godfrey Thacker, Esq., who sold it to James Marrener, who, by will, gave it to his wife for life, and then to his two daughters: the other third was in William Aylett of Stifford.

The church, dedicated to All Saints, stands upon a rising ground, and is of one pace with the chancel. It has a spire, and only one bell. The rectory has been always appendant on the manor, excepting one turn, which John Osborne had in 1557, and William Wiseman in 1581 and 1609. The parish is rated to the land-tax at 392*l.*, and the living in the king's books valued at 50*l.*, and is discharged.

L A N G D O N.

TWO contiguous parishes of this name lie to the north of Fange, and of Corringham and Horndon on the Hill. The word means long hill, as the chief part of these two parishes stands high; and it was supposed that this is the highest spot of ground

in the county; but Danbury has been found by accurate survey to be somewhat higher. The reason why Langdon-hill is supposed to be so high, is chiefly owing to a deception; for on the north side leading to it, the ascent is easy and not much perceived; but to the south, south-east, and south-west, it opens into a most extensive vale, which reaches up to London for a continuance of more than twenty miles: it affords a prospect of that city, with the Thames and shipping, and Tilbury-fort; with the opposite coast of Kent to the Medway, if not further; and is from east to west at least forty miles. Thus may Essex boast of one of the most extensive prospects in England. The parish was divided afterwards into the manors of Langdon, and of Goldsmiths.

The mansion-house of the manor of Langdon stands on the side of a hill near the church. The next possessors of the estate, after the grandson of Sweyn, were a family surnamed de Langdon. In Henry II.'s reign John de Langdon held one fee of the honour of Rayley. The family of Sutton appear to have been lords paramount; for in 1209, Robert de Sutton gave it in marriage with his daughter to William Bigod, Earl of Norfolk. The manor was seized into the king's hands on account of the death of John de Langdon without issue in 1382. The parish has since been united with West Lee.

The manor of Goldsmiths, the mansion-house of which stands higher than the former manors, and towards the south on the other side of the church, was called so from some owners, and seems to have gone for several years with that of Malgraves in Horndon, to which it is contiguous. John Malgrave in 1320 held it; and after that it came into the Tyrell family. Edward Archer, Esq., held it afterwards; then Thomas Andrews, Esq., whose daughter married Thomas Cotton, Esq.; and their only daughter and heiress brought it to Dingley Askham, Esq., in marriage.

West Lee is a parish about a mile from Langdon towards Vange, and was united to Langdon in 1432. The poverty of both places was alleged as a reason for the union, and the people of West Lee have ever since resorted to Langdon church, as their own has been taken down. It is unknown at present where it stood. West Lee signifies the west pasture. This parish belonged at the time of the survey to the canons of St. Paul's church in London, and has ever since continued in them. In the Confessor's reign it was held by Edeva. It is situated on the side of a hill, about three quarters of a mile from the church. Edward II. in 1313 granted this immunity to the manor: that no purveyor should take away any corn for the king
within

within its precincts. Fletchers and Nightingales are two farms which belonged to John Henniker, Esq. Here are also two farms settled by Thomas White, D.D., as an endowment for the professorship of moral philosophy at Oxford, founded by him in 1621, being about 100*l.* per annum: he gave besides, out of these farms, to five scholars of Magdalen-hall in Oxford, 8*l.* a year each, and 4*l.* to the principal. He also founded Sion College in London.

The church is dedicated to All Saints, and stands on the western side of a hill; it is of one pace with the chancel, but the chancel has a north chapel. A wooden belfry, with a spire, contains two bells. The patronage of the rectory of Langdon-hill was in Bileigh-abbey till 1432. Upon the union of this church with that of Westley, the abbey reserved to itself two turns, and the third was allowed to the church of St. Paul; but ever since the dissolution the whole right of patronage has been in the dean and chapter of that church. The parish is rated to the land-tax at 574*l.*, and the living is valued in the king's books at 50*l.* per annum, and is discharged.

LANGDON AND BASILDON.

THIS parish, which lies north of the last, is called Langdon Clay from the nature of the soil. In it are two manors, that of Langdon and of Gobyons.

The manor of Langdon belonged before the Conquest to a woman named Alfened; and at the time of the survey, to the Bishop of London, in whose see it has ever since continued. Ulmar held a part in the Confessor's reign; and after him Ralph. In 1290 Edward I. confirmed to the Bishop of London a view of frankpledge here; and the year after, the Bishop enclosed his wood in Langdon called the Fryth, with the adjacent demesne lands, and made a park within the bounds of the forest of Essex. The Fryth was the manor-house where courts are kept.

Gobyons took its name from an ancient family, who had estates in this county. The manor-house is about a mile west of the church near Dunton. In 1334 Thomas Gobyon, junior, and Elizabeth his wife, held 20*l.* in land and rents in Langdon, of the king in capite. John Gobyon held it in 1396 of the Countess of Stafford, and the manor of Sturmines of the Bishop of London. His daughter brought it in marriage to William Gaynsford. John Puckle in 1617 gave all his copyhold lands for
the

the maintenance of a school-master to teach a competent number of children of Basildon and Langdon; the farm was said to be 16*l.* per annum.

The church stands upon rising ground, and is dedicated to St. Nicolas: it consists of a body and south aisle; the chancel is only of one pace. It has a steeple of timber, and a shingled spire. This valuable rectory has been always in the collation of the Bishops of London. The parsonage-house is a very ancient building, and lies in a bottom between Langdon church and Basildon. A well-endowed chantry was founded in this church in 1329. In the book of chantries it was valued at 8*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.* This parish is rated to the land-tax at 768*l.* The living of Langdon, which is united with Basildon, is valued in the king's books at 36*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, and is not discharged.

B A S I L D O N.

THIS place is a large hamlet belonging to Langdon. It contains the three following manors: that of Barstaple-hall; that of Belesdun, or Botelers; and that of Bartlesdon, or Battlewick: to which is added East Lee.

Barstaple-hall lies about half a mile from Basildon church towards Fange. An ancient tradition subsists here, that an old town stood about this spot, or at least within the hamlet. In a pasture field near the church, called Townfield, foundations of buildings have been ploughed up, and large quantities of human bones have been discovered in the garden belonging to the parsonage. In the Confessor's reign a freeman possessed this manor, which at the time of the survey belonged to the Bishop of Bayeux. The present manor-house of Barstaple-hall is an ancient building upon a rising ground; it is now deserted for another house in a lower situation, where good water is to be found, and where the farmer now lives. No owner's name is mentioned till the time of Edward III.'s reign; and after that time the lord of the manor held also the hundred under the king. Edmund of Woodstock, Earl of Kent, appears to have been lord here. Humphrey de Walden held it in 1330. It continued in the Waldens till 1419, when John Walden dying was succeeded by his two sisters; Catharine, wife of John Barle, junior; and Margaret, wife of Henry Langley. Catherine, wife of John Marshall, held the manor: she died in 1517; her husband in 1520. They had two daughters coheiresses; Eleanor, wife of Henry Cutt, son of Sir John Cutt, of Thaxted; and Mary, wife of John Cutt. Eleanor held

held the manor. Peter Cutt in 1547 died possessed of it. It belonged lately to — Coleman, Esq., of Isleworth, and then to Charles Brown, Gent.

Little Barstaple is mentioned as a manor in this parish, which William Sandell held in 1562: he also held a messuage and lands here called Bacons.

The manor of Belesdun, or Botelers. At the time of the survey Sweyn of Essex held this and the adjoining one of Battlewick. Botelers, in the reign of the Confessor, had belonged to Lefstan, and the other to Goda, a freeman. The mansion-house stands a short way south of the church, and is moated round. This manor consisted of one capital messuage, called Butlers, in Bartlesdon; another, called Edgcotts, in Crayes; and other messuages held of the honour of Mandeville. The family of De Vere held both these estates according to the earliest accounts. Wido de Bertlesdon held it at the time of Henry III. John De Vere, Earl of Oxford, about the years 1350 and 1358 had it; and under him Robert Travers and his heirs possessed it. After that it came into the family of Cornwallis. John Cornwallis died in 1536. Sir Charles Cornwallis sold it to Sir Robert Wrothe, who died in 1606. His son, Sir Robert, sold it to Henry Atkins, M.D.; from whom it came to Martin Bowes, Esq., late of Bury St. Edmunds, in Suffolk; and afterwards to his three daughters, one of whom married Philip Broke, Esq.

The manor of Battlewick was anciently called Bartlesdon: its mansion-house stands near the church. John De Vere, Earl of Oxford, had this manor, and it continued in this noble family till they were deprived of their estates in 1472 by act of parliament for their adherence to the house of Lancaster. Edward IV. gave them to his brother the Duke of Gloucester, afterward Richard III., who granted the manor of Langdon to John Howard, Duke of Norfolk, which the Earl of Oxford had forfeited by attainder. But Henry VII. reinstated that family in the estates. John, thirteenth Earl of Oxford, died in possession of the manor of Battlewick in 1512. The two last mentioned manors hold no courts.

East Lee is about a mile from Langdon church. It was formerly called a manor, and belonged to the family of Bohun, but is now only a farm-house, situated on rising ground. It is a distinct place, and pays no tithes, either to this parish, or Langdon-hills. There is very little account of it. Sir Brian Tuke, who died in 1545, held it. Queen Elizabeth granted it in 1591, with the advowson there, to Henry Best and John Wells. Lord Petre had the lands in 1622 at his death. It belonged lately to William Petre, Esq., of Newhouse, in Writtle. Here was formerly a chapel, now demolished,

demolished, but the site of it is still visible. It was either built originally for a chantry, or one was founded there afterwards. The chapel of Basildon is a chapel of ease to Langdon. It stands on a rising ground, about two miles from the church. The parsonage-house is in a valley between them. The chapel is a neat building, and in good repair, of one pace with the chancel. It has an embattled tower, with a short spire. Basildon is rated to the land-tax at 456*l*. Here is a fair on Holyrood-day, September 14th, and one day more, to which there is great resort.

N E W E N D E N.

THIS parish lies in a bottom, which is the reason of the latter part of the name, signifying a valley; the first part is derived from the Saxon word new, or from another word meaning low. If the Saxons settled first in this part of the country, as is supposed, this might be one of the new settlements wherewith they enlarged their quarters. In the Confessor's reign the lands in this parish were divided into three parcels belonging to Alouard Dore, to a freeman, and to Aluvin. At the time of the survey Roger Mareschall had the first, Hagheben the second, and some one else the third. There are two manors in this parish: the manor of Newenden, or Little Bromford; and that of Frerne, or Fryerne.

The manor of Bromford, of which the mansion stands near the church, is so named from its owner, and is reckoned the chief in this parish. In 1419 John Sumpter, of Colchester, delivered to John Tyrell, John Cornwallis, and others, a moiety of the manor of Bromfords, in Newenden, with the advowson of the church. It seems to have been divided in order to settle a part of it upon the hospital of St. Mary, in Bishopgate Without, in which it continued till the dissolution. Sir Lewis John, who died in 1442, held the manor, with the advowson, of the Earl of Stafford. Henry Fitz-Lewis, his son, held it; his heiress was Mary, wife of Antony Wideville, Lord Rivers. In 1522 William Fitz-Lewis and Anne his wife passed this estate by fine to William Berdeford; and in 1537 it passed from Ralph Symonds and his wife to Sir John Mordaunt. Richard Robotham, Gent., was lord of this manor in 1610. — Alexander, Esq., purchased this estate, and then it belonged to Joshua Blackmore.

The manor of Frerne, or Fryerne, appears to have been taken from Bromfords about the time of Henry V., and given to the hospital of St. Mary Bishopgate. King

Henry VIII. granted it to the mayor and corporation of London; but it did not continue with them any length of time; for in 1563 William Dunch and Henry Coddenham alienated the manor to Sir William Petre, who died in possession of it in 1571. By the presentations to the living it appears to have been in the families of Wakefield and Hoare from 1662 to 1678. It afterwards belonged to the family of Galliard. The chantry, chapel, or hospital of Melton, near Gravesend, in Kent, had the chief of its endowment in this parish. It was considerable, and in 1524 was granted to Sir Henry Wyatt by Henry VIII.

The church is dedicated to St. Peter, and is of one pace with the chancel. It contains only one bell. The rectory is said to be appendant on the manor. It was at first appendant on the manor of Little Bromfords; but since the year 1574 it has been in the gift of one of the lords of the manor of Great Bromfords, or Frerne. The parish is rated to the land-tax at 324*l*. The living is valued in the king's books at 40*l*. per annum, and is discharged.

WICKFORD.

THIS parish lies in a narrow place between Newenden and Downham, and is bounded on the north by part of Chelmsford hundred, and on the east by part of Rochford. It derives the name from a ford through the river Crouch near a wic, which is a Saxon word, and signifies a castle, or the winding of a river. In the reign of the Confessor, Wickford comprehended four manors; besides four other parcels. Sweyn of Essex, and Odo Bishop of Bayeux, had lands here at the time of the survey. These estates were afterwards united to the neighbouring parishes. There are at present here only two considerable estates, Wickford-hall and Stylemans. The latter holds courts, but the former does not.

Wickford-hall stands near the church, and was part of Sweyn's lands. It remained in the crown after the forfeiture of Henry de Essex, Sweyn's grandson, till Richard I. granted it to Ulric, commander of his cross-bowmen: it remained in his posterity till 1307. John Plantagenet, Earl of Kent, had it in 1352. It is not ascertained in whose hands it was till the reign of Henry VIII. In 1511 Elizabeth, widow of Sir John Pound, had it. Sir Henry Radcliffe had it after it had remained in the former family some time: his wife alienated it to Arthur Harrys, Esq. In the last

century Edmund Godwin, of Hook's-hall, in Surry, sold it to Richard Vaughan, Esq., of Shenfield-hall.

Stylemans mansion-house stood about half a mile north-west of the church, on the north side of the river near Runwell, but has been taken down many years. Courts-leet are kept here; and at the court two constables are chosen. There is no account of this estate till of late, when Mr. Robert Chester gave it to his sister's son, Mr. John Moor. The estate after this came into the Hall family. A manor in Wickford, part of the possessions of Henry de Essex, was granted by Henry III. in 1226 to Hubert de Burgh, when he created him Earl of Kent.

The church stands in a pleasant situation on a rising ground, and is of one pace with the chancel. It has a spire, and two bells. The church was given by Robert de Essex to the priory of Prittlewell, which was founded by him. The priory presented to this rectory, except when their revenues were seized by the crown as belonging to an alien priory, and continued possessed of the advowson till their dissolution. Before the year 1551 Edward VI. granted it away; and it came afterwards to the lords of the manor of Stylemans. Wickford is rated to the land-tax at 558 $\frac{1}{2}$ l. The rectory in the king's books is valued at 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ l., and is not discharged. There are two geldables in the parish, which is a Saxon word, and signifies taxable or tributable. They are joined in the taxes with Wickford, and bear a third part in the king's tax. One third part of the constable's rate is also paid to them, and they have nothing further to do in the parish. These geldables extend into the neighbouring parishes of Rawreth, Runwell, and South Hanningfield. Rawreth hamlet is rated to the land-tax at 134 $\frac{1}{2}$ l., and Runwell geldable at 98 $\frac{1}{2}$ l.

P I T S E Y.

THIS parish lies south-west of the river Thames, which here forms a peninsula; and in the western branch is Pitsey creek. The situation gave occasion to the latter part of the name, the Saxon word signifying an island or water, and the first syllable is derived from a pit or pitch. The wife of Phin had the estate before the Conquest. Soon after the Conquest it belonged to Eudo Dapifer, steward to the Conqueror; he made it part of the endowment of his abbey of St. John's, Colchester, except the manor of Chalvedon.

Pitfey-hall mansion-house lies down at the bottom of the hill below the church near the channel. A creek comes up to the door. The abbot and convent held this manor till the dissolution of monasteries. In 1539 Henry VIII. granted the manor and advowson to Thomas Lord Cromwell. Upon his attainder in 1540 they reverted to the crown, and were given for the maintenance of the Princess, afterwards Queen Mary. Queen Elizabeth in 1562 granted this manor and other lands to Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk. Philip Howard, Earl of Arundel, in 1581 alienated it with the advowson to Roger Townshend, Esq., and Edward Cook, Gent. In 1582 Roger Townshend alienated them to Edward Cook alone. Sir Edward Cooke, Knight, held the manor in 1618. The estate was in 1664 in the possession of Mr. Samuel Moyer, merchant.

The manor of Chalvedon, or Chandewell. The mansion-house is old and large, and lies in the bottom between Newenden and Pitfey Street. After the year 1285, which is the earliest account of this land, it was in the prior of St. Mary's hospital in Bishopgate Without; and in 1386 Walter Lord Fitz-Walter held the same estate: it does not appear how much, or whether all of it, was in the prior of Bishopgate, and forfeited at the suppression. King Henry VIII. granted this manor to Thomas Lord Cromwell; after his attainder it reverted to the king, who assigned it as part of the maintenance of his daughter Mary. In 1562 Queen Elizabeth granted the manor and lordship to Thomas Duke of Norfolk; she had it again after his attainder, and gave it to his son: he was created Earl of Suffolk. It afterwards came into the Prescott family of Thoby Priory.

The church is dedicated to St. Michael, and stands high, as do the chief of those which are dedicated to that Archangel. There is a delightful prospect from it: it is of one pace with the chancel, and has a spire. The rectory has been always appendant on the manor of Pitfey-hall; many years in the gift of St. John's abbey of Colchester, and since that time in those who have enjoyed that manor. The parish is rated to the land-tax at 527*l*. The living is valued at 16*l*. 13*s*. 4*d*. in the king's books, and is not discharged.

BURES, OR BUERS, GIFFORD.

THIS parish is distinguished by the ancient name of its owners the Giffords, from the other Buers in Lexden hundred, in this county, called Mount Buers. The

lands of this parish were in different hands, both before and after the Conquest: they were afterwards, for some ages, in one person's possession. Subsequently to that they were divided into the manors of Buers Gifford, and of Earls or Eagles fee. In the reign of Henry II. Robert de Liburne held Bures, and Robert de Sutton under him, by the serjeantcy of scalding the king's hogs. Robert de Sutton gave in marriage with his daughter to William, a younger son of Roger Bigod, Earl of Norfolk, all his lands in Sutton and in Bures, and the advowson of the church. After this it came into the ancient family of Gifford, in whom it remained till 1348. The Gifford family failing of issue, John De Vere, seventh Earl of Oxford, possessed lands here, and his posterity were lords paramount; the two manors were some years before divided.

Bowers-hall is first mentioned in Buers Gifford about the year 1346. Robert Travers held it in 1347, and then John Gerard. A family named St. Nicholas had it next; Henry Baker in 1494. The right of presentation to the living continued in the Baker family till the reign of James I., when the estate went away amongst some female heirs. The Earls of Oxford presented twice in 1537 and 1541, during the minority of James Baker. It was afterwards divided, with the advowson, among the daughters of Henry Baker in 1631. The eldest married William Boughton, Esq., of Warwickshire: the second married Thomas Boughton, Esq., his brother: the youngest married Sir Thomas Bendich, from whom Edward Cockain, of London, bought one turn of the advowson. Sir Edward Boughton in 1662 fold for 3000*l.* the estate of Bowers Gifford-hall, with appurtenances, and the third part of the rectory, to Edmund Lewen, Esq. His son disposed of them to John Slaughter, or Slater, of London, who imagined he had purchased the whole advowson instead of every third vacancy. He left the estate for his life to his wife, and then to his son.

Bowers Gifford, the manor-house, stands near the church. The old house was a large building, moated round, but has been pulled down, and the present one erected in its place.

Earls fee was that portion of the parish which remained the fee or estate of the Earls of Oxford, after they had granted part of it to their tenants. The mansion-house, which is much larger and better than Bowers-hall, lies down in the marshes, about a quarter of a mile below the church, on a creek where vessels of considerable burthen may come up. The Earls of Oxford had this estate as early as the reign of Edward III., but it was not denominated Earls fee till the year 1513. It continued

in the Earls of Oxford till after the year 1570, when it came into the Reade family, in which it continued for above 130 years. Henry Reade sold this estate in 1747 to George Montgomery, Esq. Muffels is an estate here, and belongs to the Kingsman family.

The church, dedicated to St. Margaret, is of one pace with the chancel. It has a spire. The rectory has been always appendant on the manor of Bowers-hall. It was originally in the gift of the ancient lords the Giffords: then in the gift of the Fitz-Nicolas family; then in the Baker family to 1631, when the right of presentation was divided among the three coheireffes. The right of the eldest is now in the gift of the lords of Bowers Gifford-hall; the right of the second was purchased by John Laws, who sold it to Francis Clark, L. L. D., who gave his right to his sister, the wife of Joseph Moyer; and the right of the third passed from Edward Cockayne, of London, to Jasper Kingsman, Esq. The parish is rated to the land-tax at 731*l*. The rectory remains in charge, and is valued in the king's books at 25*l*. per annum.

B E M F L E E T.

BEMFLEET is the name of two contiguous parishes here, lying north and south of each other, and thus distinguished. The first part of the name is derived from the Saxon word, which signifies beam, tree, or post, as the place when first discovered was found to be woody; some suppose it to be taken from Bana, a murderer, and Bena, a beggar: the latter syllable signifies a bay, or gulf, as it was the usual landing-place of the Danes when they infested these coasts in the ninth century. Hæsten, the Danish plunderer, built about the year 893 a castle or fortification at Bemfleet, where he deposited his spoils, and kept a large garrison: but in 894 King Alfred drove away the garrison, demolished the castle, and took Hæsten's wife and two sons prisoners, with all the booty, and carried them to London. They also burnt or destroyed most of the Danish ships which they found here, and carried the rest to London or Rochester. These two parishes were not then divided, but went by the common name of Bemfleet.

North Bemfleet belonged, in the reign of the Confessor, to Earl Harold, afterwards King of England. The mansion-house stands near the church. The other part of the manor, which was held by Sweyn, and afterwards under him by a family named

De Coggeshall, completed the manor of Coggeshall, which has been long since united to the other, now called the manor of North Bemfleet, alias Coggeshalls. According to the earliest accounts which are given, about the reign of Henry III. it was in a family surname De Bemflett; but the chief part of it was in a family surname De Plumberg, of the neighbouring parish of Hockley; and then in the Coggeshall family. Alice of this latter family brought this estate in marriage to Sir John Tyrell of Heron, and that of Jarvais in South Bemfleet. It continued with them till Sir Ralph Wiseman, Knight, of Rivenhall, who died in 1603, held the manor. Sir William Wiseman alienated it to Edmund Godwin, who in 1694 sold it to John Wilmer, merchant, of London, descended from that family of Northamptonshire, in whom it has since remained.

The manor of Berdfelds, otherwise called Bradvilles, and now Browfords, furnishes little for any account of it. Richard Lee, Esq., in 1497 held the manor. Thomas Wiseman, at the time of his death in 1584, had it also; his daughters and coheirs were Elizabeth, wife of Richard Jennings, and Dorothy Wiseman. In 1615 George Pomfret was in possession of it, and held it of Sir Henry Appleton, Knight and Baronet.

Fanhall, another manor here, about a mile north of the church, was the property of John Russell, Esq., of North Okenden. There are also other lands in the parish.

The church is dedicated to All Saints, and is of one pace with the chancel. The rectory has been always appendant on the manor of North Bemfleet. The parish is rated to the land-tax at 574*l*. The value of the living in the king's books is estimated at 16*l*., and is not discharged.

SOUTH BEMFLEET.

THIS parish is separated from Canvey Island by a creek, which by its passing Hadley is called Hadley-ray, a word derived from the old French, and signifying river, coast, or bank. It is also called Great Bemfleet. In the reign of the Confessor part of this parish belonged to St. Mary's at Barking. But William the Conqueror took it from that nunnery, and gave it to Westminster-abbey. Another part which a freeman had in the Confessor's reign, Sweyn held at the time of the survey. From these,

these, three different manors were taken: that belonging to Westminster-abbey, that of South Bemfleet, and that of Jarvis.

The manor of the abbey had an addition to its demesnes by several donations. The manor and demesnes continued in the abbey till the suppression, when they came to the crown. When it was converted into a foundation for a dean and prebendaries, Henry VIII. made the manors of Bonville and Bemfleet part of their endowment; which, notwithstanding the successive alterations in that church, have ever since continued in it. Queen Elizabeth in 1560 confirmed these and other manors to them, adding at the same time the rectory and advowson of the vicarage.

The manors of South Bemfleet and Jarvis are that part of the parish which was Sweyn's. South Bemfleet-hall stands on the north side of the church, and Jarvis-hall about a mile north of the same. The latter was anciently called North Mayes, alias Jervis Hill, from its situation. The most ancient owners of this estate, after Henry de Essex, were a family surnamed De Woodham. William de Woodham died in 1280. The next possessor of this estate upon record is John de Coggeshall. Alice, daughter of Sir William Coggeshall above mentioned, was married to Sir John Tyrell of Herons. Joice, daughter of Sir Robert Tyrell, brought this estate in marriage to her husband, Thomas Appleton, Esq. Elizabeth Appleton, daughter of Sir William, the last of the family, brought this estate, which was very considerable, to her husband, Richard Vaughan, Esq., of Shenfield-place, in whose family it continued. The manor of Jarvis-hall containing 6620 acres, and that of South Bemfleet containing 3000 acres, and the farms of Leigh Park containing about 180 acres, were disforested by the Appletons, in consideration of 500*l.* paid to the crown. There were other lands also disforested, which amounted to some thousand acres.

Rich-marsh, since called Richneffe, was the endowment of a chantry founded in the cathedral of St. Paul in 1239 by the dean of that church. It was granted after the suppression to others. There is also mention made of a manor called White-halle.

The church is situated in the street on rising ground, and is a lofty handsome edifice: it is dedicated to St. Mary. It consists of a body and two aisles; with pillars of the Tuscan order. The tower is of stone, and has a spire shingled, containing five bells. The church was, with the manor, given to Westminster-abbey by the Conqueror. The great tithes were afterwards appropriated to that abbey, and a vicarage

vicarage ordained, of which they continued patrons till the suppression, when they came to the crown; but were both granted by Queen Elizabeth to the dean and chapter of Westminster, in whom they have ever since continued. Dr. Francis Clerke in 1743 paved the chancel of this church with marble, and by his will ordered an organ to be erected, with a salary of 30*l.* per annum for the organist. He is nominated and appointed by the corporation of the sons of the clergy. The parish is rated to the land-tax at 824*l.* The vicarage is valued in the king's books at 50*l.*, and is discharged. There is a fair in the parish on the 24th of August.

THUNDERSLEY.

THUNDERSLEY lies to the east of this hundred adjoining to that of Rochford. The name, derived from two Saxon words, denotes Thunder's pasture ground; but from what it arose is not known. In the reign of the Confessor, Godric, one of the king's thanes, was owner of the lordships, which at the time of the survey were part of Sweyn's large possessions. It was afterwards divided into the manors of Thundersley and of Busches.

The mansion-house of the manor of Thundersley stands about half a mile north of the church. Upon the forfeiture of Henry de Essex this estate became vested in the crown. About the reign of Henry II. it belonged to a family, surnamed Fitz-Barnard. In 1313 Thomas Le Fitz-Barnard passed the estate to Bartholomew de Baddlesmere by fine. He gave it in exchange to King Edward II. for the manor of Bourne, in Suffex. Edward III. in 1329 granted it to John Le Sturmy and his heirs. The crown purchased it in 1367 for the purpose of adding it to Rayley castle, which belonged to the royal family. In 1390 Richard II. granted it to Edmund Duke of York, fifth son of Edward III. The estate continued in the crown till Edward VI. granted the disparked part of it to William Parre, Earl of Essex and Northampton, who was attainted for adhering to the cause of Lady Jane Grey. But before his attainder he granted away the park to Edward Bury, and Kenelm Throgmorton, Esq.; the latter in 1550 conveyed it to Thomas Gesting. The manor of Thundersley continued in the crown from 1422 to 1553, when Edward VI. granted it to Susan Tonge. Queen Mary added to it the advowson of the church, which she retained till her death, when George White, Esq., of Hutton, her nephew and heir, in

in 1584, became the possessor. His son in 1595 alienated it to Francis Fitch, Gent. It was after that, with the advowson, in Robert Wiseman in 1619; Robert Smyth, then Thomas Dawling, and his son. John Ange, Esq., of Upton, sold it in 1720 to Robert Surman, Esq., for the sum of 4600*l.*, its yearly rent being at that time 160*l.* Edward Turner purchased it next; and he left it to his nephew, Edward Montgomery, Esq.

The manor of Busches, otherwise Bursches, was so called from William Busch, who held it in 1309. It afterwards belonged to the new hospital of St. Mary Bishopgate Without, and upon the suppression, coming to the crown, was granted to John De Vere, Earl of Oxford, in 1545. John Warner held it in 1552; and in 1556 it went to Thomas Newdigate, the next heir. That family sold it to Henry Songar, Gent.; next year it was disposed of to Bartholomew Averell. It was since in Captain Crowder, of London.

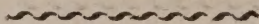
The church is dedicated to St. Peter, and stands on an eminence, from whence there is a good prospect. It consists of a body and two aisles. The rectory belonged to the priory of Pritlewell till the suppression: it then came to the crown. Queen Mary granted it to Tonge, and it has since passed, together with the manor, to the families of White, Wiseman, Smyth, Dawling, Ange, Turner, and Montgomery. The parish is rated to the land-tax at 445*l.* 2*s.* The rectory in the king's books is valued at 49*l.*, and is discharged.

C A N V E Y.

CANVEY is an island which lies between Bemfleet and Hadley, and is encompassed by branches of the river Thames. There is a passage over it across the strand at low water. It is about five miles in length and two in breadth, and contains 3600 acres. It is no parish of itself, but pays taxes and tithes to the following parishes: North and South Bemfleet, Bowers Gifford, Pitsey, Fange, Langdon, and Basildon; and to three parishes within the hundred of Rochford, Lee, Pritlewell, and South Church. There are about fifty dwellings in the island. Camden supposes it justly to be the Convennos mentioned in Ptolemy's Geography. The most ancient possessors of lands in this island upon record are, Edward Baker, Esq., who in 1543 held marshes here. In 1557 Sir Roger Appleton held lands or marshes here. The island

being subject to be overflowed by high tides, Sir Henry Appleton and others, owners of lands, agreed to give one third of the lands in fee-simple to Joas Cropenburg, a Dutchman, a dyke-maker, as a compensation to him for protecting the island by this means from the overflowing. The agreement was made by a decree of the court of chancery in 1663; and the third of the lands now goes towards the repairs of the sea walls. A timber chapel was built here for the use of the Dutch inhabitants employed in the undertaking. That falling into decay, another was built at the expence of Mr. Edgar, an officer in the victualling-office: it was consecrated in 1712. This also decaying, another was built in 1745, partly by a contribution of the inhabitants, but chiefly by the benefaction of Daniel Scratton, Esq. He made over also part of the tithes to pay 10*l.* a year to the vicar of Prittlewell to perform divine service here; and 10*l.* a year more to the minister to preach twenty sermons in St. Catharine's chapel in this island. About 17*l.* per annum is paid to the minister by the incumbents of the nine parishes which receive tithes out of this place. The island is still subject to inundations at particular periods; one of the most remarkable was in 1736, when about half the cattle were drowned. A cow and some hogs happening to stand upon a dunghill, were preserved by the dunghill stopping against a bank, although they were carried near a mile over a deep creek.

There is a fair here annually on the 25th of June.



CHELMSFORD HUNDRED.

THIS hundred, which is situated in the middle of the county, derives many advantages which the other hundreds cannot enjoy. The land is in general very good; and it abounds with gentlemen's seats. The hundred is in the disposal of the sheriff of Essex during the time being. It contains thirty parishes; of which the following belong to the part within the limits of this work: Chelmsford, Springfield, Sandon, East, West, and South Haningfield, Ruttenden, Runwell, Mountneyning, Ingatestone, Butsbury, Stock, Margaretting, Frierning, Blackmore, Widford, Writtle, Roxwell, Bromfield, Chicknal St. James, Chicknal Smeley.

CHELMSFORD.

CHELMSFORD.

THIS town gives name both to the deanery and hundred; it is rather large and populous, and is about twenty-nine miles from London. It derived the name from a ford through the river Chelmer. It is situated at the confluence of two rivers; the Can, which flows from the south-south-west; and the Chelmer, from the north. The town is a great thoroughfare from London to Colchester, Harwich, and Suffolk. The assizes and all quarter sessions are held here. The elections are here made for members of parliament; and a new county gaol of Portland stone has been lately erected, and which does great credit to the county. A large and plentiful market is held here on Fridays; and there are annually two fairs; one on the first of May, the other on the first of November. It is well supplied with water, there being an excellent conduit in the market-place, from which runs every minute an hoghead and half, conveyed through the town in a limpid stream. By an account taken in 1738 there were found to be 2151 inhabitants; but they have considerably increased of late years, as well as the buildings.

In the reign of the Confessor, and at the time of the survey, Chelmsford was part of the possessions of the Bishops of London; and to them it is indebted for its existence and grandeur. It was a very inconsiderable place in the reign of Henry I. about the year 1100, when Maurice Bishop of London built a bridge over the river here, which brought the road, which before lay through Writtle, to this place. About an hundred years after, William de Sancta-Maria, Bishop of London, obtained licence for a market here from King John, and for a fair the year following. King Edward I. confirmed the privileges of the town, which once returned four members to a council at Westminster. There are two manors in this parish, Bishop's-hall, Moulsham-hall, and part of Bekefwell.

The manor of Bishop's-hall was that part which belonged to the Bishops of London, and was called the manor of Chelmsford, or Bishop's-hall. The mansion-house stands on the north side of the town, near the parsonage, and the river about half a mile from the church. The town and manor continued in the Bishops of London till 1545, when Edmund Bonner granted them, with the advowson of the church, to Henry VIII., his heirs and successors; which grant was confirmed by the dean and chapter of St. Paul's. These premises continued in the crown till

1563, when Queen Elizabeth granted the manor of Chelmsford, with Bishop's-hall, and the mansion-house and capital mansion of the manor, to Thomas Mildmay and his heirs. It has since that time been possessed by his posterity.

The manor and hamlet of Moulsham adjoins to Chelmsford, and is divided from it by the river Can. It was held by the abbot and convent of St. Peter of Westminster. It remained in their possession till the suppression of the monasteries, when it came to the crown. In 1540 Henry VIII. granted it to Thomas Mildmay for a valuable consideration at twenty years purchase. The mansion-house stands on the left-hand side of the road leading to London. It was rebuilt in a magnificent manner by Benjamin Earl Fitz-Walter, under the direction of Leoni, the celebrated architect. It is of a quadrangular form, inclosing a court, and commands a view of Danbury-hill.

The manor of Bekefwell is also part of this hamlet of Moulsham, and was included in the grant of Thomas Mildmay. It was formerly called Bekefwell, but now Bexfield. The house stands on the right-hand side of the road leading from Chelmsford to Stock and Billericay, at the entrance of Gallow-wood common. Francis Battrene held this estate in the reign of Edward I., and gave it to John de Insula de Burglee, Knight, who in 1334 granted it to Henry de Burghersh, Bishop of Lincoln, and his heirs. Lord Burghersh was his heir. Edward Le Despencer next possessed it by his marriage with Elizabeth, daughter of Lord Burghersh; but it did not remain long with him, for four years after it was in Sir Thomas Tyrell, Knight, and his wife. It was next granted to Westminster-abbey by King Richard II. That monastery had also lands and tenements in this hamlet, but not specified by name, which were once in the possession of Roger Basset, of Sutton. At the dissolution all the premises became vested in the crown, and King Henry VIII. granted them at that time to Thomas Mildmay, Esq.

On the south side of the river, in the hamlet of Moulsham, was formerly a house of Dominican friars. The site of it is now called the Friars, and lies a little above the gaol. The building was of a mixture of flint and free-stone; the kitchen was curious on account of the roof, it being like that of the Theatre at Oxford. There are now no remains of it apparent. This house at the suppression was valued at 9*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.* per annum. Henry VIII. granted it to Antony Bonvixi. It afterwards came into the Mildmay family, where it continued. Thomas Langford, a Domini-

can friar, lived in this house about the year 1320; he wrote an universal chronicle from the beginning of the world to his own time, and other pieces.

A chapel, formerly belonging to St. Ofyth's abbey, stood in a field called Long Champs, between Moulsham-hall and Gallow-common, built by that abbey, which had part of the tithes of Moulsham. Several stones, with brasses upon them, have been discovered there. At the dissolution this chapel and tithes, which were valued at 5*l.* per annum, were let to William Aylenoth. Henry VIII. granted the site of this chapel, with appurtenances, and a moiety of the tithes of Moulsham, belonging to the abbey of St. Ofyth, to William Gonson, Esq., and his heirs. His daughter having married Henry Mildmay, Esq., brought this estate into that family.

In 1348 Edward III. granted leave to Philip de Aungre and his wife to give to the keeper and chaplains of the chantry at the altar of St. Mary de Thele in Hertfordshire, and to their successors, certain abbey lands in this parish.

Edward VI. in 1552 granted leave to Sir Walter Mildmay, Sir Henry Tyrell, and Thomas Mildmay, Esq., and the inhabitants of Moulsham and adjacent parts, to erect a free grammar-school in the parish of Chelmsford for ever, to be called by the name of Edward VI., under the inspection of a master and usher. He constituted the four above-named governors for life, and their heirs for ever; and in default of issue, &c., then it was in the bishops of the diocese to appoint four governors of the orders of knights in their room. He gave it a liberal endowment, and made them a body corporate and politic for ever by the name of the governors of the possessions, revenues, and goods of the free-school of King Edward VI. in the parish of Chelmsford. They have a seal of brass, on which is engraven a rose, with an inscription. The old school-room fell in while the master and scholars were fortunately at dinner; in consequence of which a new room was built; Sir John Tyrell being manager at the time, purchased part of the George inn and of the yard and garden, and greatly added to it; since which time it has been much enlarged by Lord Fitz-Walter and the subsequent trustees. There are two charity-schools in this town, one founded in 1713 for fifty boys, the other for twenty girls in 1714. But the number of boys has of late years been reduced. The school-house stands at the north-east corner of the church-yard, in a lane leading to the parsonage and to Bishop's-hall. A house has been lately purchased for the master, with a salary of 30*l.* per annum. In 1716, a
short

short way from this school, a work-house was erected : it is a large brick building. Here are also some alms-houses erected by the Mildmays.

The church is a stately building, dedicated to St. Mary, situated at the west end of the town ; both church and chancel had north and south aisles : it had a lofty stone tower, with battlements and pyramids at each corner. On the top was a large lanthorn, with a shaft leaded. It had a clock and six bells. It was rebuilt in 1414, as appears by an inscription. In the roof of the church were many escutcheons. The east window of the church was painted with the history of Christ, from his conception to his ascension ; and the vacant places were filled with the arms and escutcheons of the nobility and other distinguished benefactors. In 1641 all the pictures of Christ and the Virgin Mary were taken away, and their places filled with stained glass. There were in the times of popery, in this church, four guilds or chantries, and there were no less than 1800 obits, but the lands are now lost. On the north side of the church, and not far from Bishop's-hall, in a field leading to the town, stood a chapel dedicated to St. Margaret. It was appendant to the manor of Bishop's-hall. In a chapel on the north side of the church is a library given by John Knightsbridge, D.D., a native of this town, for the use of the clergy in this neighbourhood. On the north side of the chancel is a chapel, which serves as a burial-place to the family of Mildmay. At the east end of the church is a capital messuage, named Guy-Harling, so called from an ancient Norman possessor : in the fifteenth century it was in a branch of the Wiseman family, who rebuilt it. Lord Chief Baron Comyns rebuilt it as it now stands. The living, which is a rectory, is not discharged, and is valued in the king's book at 31*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* In the year 1800 the old church fell to the ground, and a new one has been built in its place. The new building was opened in 1803.

S P R I N G F I E L D.

THIS parish reaches down to the town of Chelmsford, being parted from it by the river ; it adjoins Boreham on the west. Its name denotes a field full of springs. At the time of the survey, Ralph Peverell held the greater part of this parish, which Alestan possessed before him. Another part, which had been in the possession of Godric, was held by Robert Gernon ; and from these the three following manors

proceeded : Springfield-hall with Dukes, Springfield Barnes, Kewton, alias Cuton-hall. The manor of Newhall is also partly in this parish.

The mansion-house of Springfield-hall stands about a mile north-west from the church, on the east side of the river towards Bromfield. The estate came very soon after the survey into the possession of a person named De Bosevill, who held it of the honour of Peverell. That honour was taken by Queen Maud from the heirs of Peverell, and given to William Mandeville, Earl of Essex. The manor was next in the family of Goldington, which name occurs in several parts of this county. It next came into the ancient family of Tyrells of Herons, in whom it continued till the present time. With Springfield-hall goes an estate, called Dukes, from a family of that name. The house stands almost opposite the church, at the south-west corner of the green. It is in the Tyrell family.

The manor of Springfield Barnes has a mansion-house, which is placed near the river, in the road from Chelmsford to Little Baddow. This part originally belonged to Robert Gernon. In the reigns of Edward II. and III. it was in Thomas, William, and John Pefe. It afterwards came into the noble families of Bohun and Bouchier. In the reign of Henry IV. it was in Sir Lodowic John, who had also the moiety of the advowson of the church of Springfield. In the first year of Edward IV. it was in Robert Chelmsford. In 1475 Margary, daughter and heiress of Richard Lord Berners, died possessed of it: she was the widow of Sir John Bouchier, who was in her right Lord Berners. It appears to have been in Coggeshall-abbey afterwards; for on its coming to the crown in 1548, at the suppression of monasteries, Edward VI. granted it to William Mildmay. Robert Bertie, son to the Earl of Lindsey, purchased it of this family, and by will gave it to his nephew. Norris Bertie sold it to John Porter, Esq., alderman of London. After his death, his executors disposed of it to William Mildmay, Esq., of Moulsham-hall, whose grandfather had sold it to Robert Bertie, Esq.

The manor of Kewton, or Cuton, was reckoned part of Newhall in Boreham. The mansion-house stands on the south side of the London road, towards Little Baddow. In 1372 it was held by Thomas Mark of the Earl of Hereford and Essex. It came afterwards into Coggeshall-abbey, but at what time is not known. It fell to the crown at the dissolution; and Henry VIII., in the twenty-ninth year of his reign, granted it, with the whole site of the abbey, to Sir Thomas Seymour, Knight; but upon an exchange, returning into the king's hands, he granted it in

1545 to John Paschall, who had farmed it before the dissolution at 15*l.* per annum. Robert Witham afterwards purchased this manor; he was a vintner in London, and settled it upon his wife, daughter of John Torriano. She married upon his death without issue James Ruck, banker in London, and after his decease John Curzon, Esq. Some of the manors were dismembered and parcelled out. In the reign of Edward I. a family of the name of Springfield held a moiety of the church, with other estates; they derived their name from this place. Peter de Marefchall had also estates here, and Richard de Plaiz in 1360. In the time of Henry IV. John Benyngton and Christian Pesse had lands here upon the new dismemberment; Thomas Tyrell also, clerk, and Lewis John; John Hunt, and Richard Alfred, Esq. John Earl of Oxford in 1514 held the fourth part of the manor of Springfield of William Pyrton, Esq.

Springfield-place is a very good house at the east end of the church, chiefly rebuilt by Robert Witham: it passed through several hands, and then came to John Strutt, Esq. A good mansion-house on the south side of the London road belonged to Mr. Shepherd. The abbot of Waltham held a tenement in Springfield. Lands, called a manor here, belonging to Thobie priory, were, among others, granted to Cardinal Wolsey by Henry VIII. It is now occupied by — Brograve, Esq. Springfield Lyons is the seat of Dowager Lady Waltham.

The poor of the parish are entitled to a rent-charge of 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* per annum issuing from lands; 40*s.* arising from cottages pulled down, and to be paid by the heirs and assigns of Ruke Church. To the parish also belong lands and a house of the yearly value of 10 or 12*l.* for the repair and ornaments of the church: a dwelling; also four acres of land; and a work-house, standing in the road leading to Colchester. There is a farm, called the Poor's farms, belonging to the alms-houses at Witham, upon Chepping hill.

The church stands on the north side of the green, and is of one pace with the chancel. There is a square tower at the west end, embattled, having a wooden turret, containing five bells. This parish has from time immemorial consisted of two several rectories, distinct from each other, both belonging to the Tyrell family; one named Springfield Bosviles, the other Springfield Richards. There are two parsonage houses, for the latter at the east, the former at the west end of the church. Springfield Bosville was rebuilt with brick by the late rector. The two rectories were consolidated a short time since by Thomas Bishop of London, at the request of Sir John

John Tyrell, the patron, and the two incumbents. Springfield Bosvile rectory is not discharged, and is valued at 11*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* in the king's books. Springfield Richards is also not discharged, and is valued at 11*l.* 4*s.* 9½*d.*

G R E A T B A D D O W.

THERE are two parishes of this name, distinguished by Great and Little; the latter of which lies out of the distance which this work prescribes; the former is called Great Baddow, derived from the word bad, and another Saxon word signifying water. In the time of the Saxons this parish was part of the possessions of Algar, the great Earl of Mercia. His son Edwin succeeded him in 1059. At the time of the Norman invasion he refused to join King Harold, because he had not received his share of the spoil due to him from the fight at Stanford bridge. But after that king's fall, he solicited the citizens of London to make him or his brother Morkar king. As they did not comply with his request, he submitted to the Conqueror, who promised to give him his daughter in marriage. But as the king did not keep his word, Edwin rose in rebellion, and was slain defending himself valiantly. King William then seizing his estates, gave this lordship among others to the monastery of the Holy Trinity in Caen, founded by his queen; and there it remained at the time of the survey. It was soon after this again in the crown. It is very probable that Henry I. gave it to his natural son, Robert Earl of Gloucester. Maud, wife of Robert Gernon, Earl of Chester, Robert's youngest daughter, having founded the priory of Repington, in Derbyshire, in 1172, endowed it, among other things, with the advowson of that church. It was next in the families of the Earls of Chester and Huntingdon. John Earl of Huntingdon, surnamed Le Scot, having married Helen, daughter of Llewellyn, Prince of Wales, after his death she became the wife of Robert de Quincy, who in her right had the manor of Baddow, in the reign of Henry III. This is now called Baddow-hall. Helen had by Robert three daughters; one of them, Joan, married to Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Essex, brought this estate into this family; it does not, however, appear to have remained there long. In the fourth year of the reign of Edward III. Edmund de Wodestock, Earl of Kent, held the manor by the service of one knight's fee; which service Robert de Brus, late lord of the

manor, released to Hugh Le Despencer the elder. Edward III. in 1332 granted this manor, with that of Writel, to Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Essex. His nephew also possessed it in 1371, and his younger daughter and coheirefs Mary, becoming the first wife of Henry Earl of Derby, afterwards Henry IV., again brought this manor into the crown. Henry IV. incorporated it into his dutchy of Lancaster, and left it to the kings of England as part of their royal demefnes. In 1509 Henry VIII. settled it upon his Queen, Catharine of Arragon, as part of her dowry, and it was settled so by parliament. About the reign of Edward VI. it came by grant or purchase to the Pascall family, who also bought the impropriate tithes and the advowson of the vicarage, to which in 1546 John Pascall presented the excellent poet Alexander Barclay. It continued in that family till the middle of the last century, when Ralph Lord Viscount Fermanagh sold the manor to Jacob Houblon, of Great Hallingborough, in this county.

The manor of Sir Hughs and Shenges received its name from the owner, Sir Hugh de Badowe, in Edward III.d's reign, and was the seat of that ancient family. It seems to have been known by three different names, Marshalls, Sir Hughs, and Badow; all from the names of those families. There are now two farms, called Sir Hughs, Great and Little. They are both about a mile from the town towards West Hanningfield. Great Sir Hughs is a large brick building, with a handsome piazza in front. Part of this estate was held in petit serjeantcy by the remarkable service of keeping the king's palfrey forty days at the royal charge whenever he came into these parts; doing suit at the hundred court of Chelmsford every three weeks, and paying 6*d.* to the sheriff's aid. Robert Marfcall in 1211 was the most ancient owner on record. His grandson died in the reign of Edward I., and left four daughters, coheireffes, amongst whom this estate was divided. They marrying, the estate became divided among their husbands, Richard Badow, Richard Springfield, Geffrey le Painmer, and John de Monteney. Thomas, son and heir of Thomas de Naylinghurst, of Braintree, coming by marriage into this estate, made it his place of residence: his son possessed the estates of Sir Hugh de Badow, and many others. About the year 1558 Robert Kinge, Gent., held the manor of Shenges, alias Sir Hughs. In 1664 the manor of Mascalls, or Marshalls, was in William Luckyn, and was afterwards in Mr. Darell, of London.

Sebright's-hall is a capital messuage in this parish, with valuable lands. It took the name from a good family, who were possessors of it, as part of the demesne
lands

lands of the manor of Great Badow. William Sebright, of Sebright-hall, lived in the reign of Henry II., and married Elizabeth, sole daughter and heiress of Sir Henry de Ashe, Knight. John Sebright in 1490 sold this estate to Robert Arthur, of Strepley, in this county. Edward Aylnoth, Esq., in the reign of Henry VIII., marrying Alice Sebright, held it of the queen. After his death the estate, either by seizure or otherwise, came into the hands of John Paschall, lord of the manor of Great Badow: he died in possession of it in the 36th year of the reign of Henry VIII. It was next in the Gonson family. Benjamin Gonson died in possession of it in 1577. The family ended in four sisters, coheiresses: Anne, wife of Giles Fleming, was one of them. He died in 1627, holding this estate: her daughter and heiress married John Everard, of Great Waltham; it then came to their son, and afterwards to Thomas Willshaw, Esq., who gave it to his daughter Martha, wife of Arthur Wight, of Guildford, but was after that sold.

Pontlands is an estate in this parish, where Walter Mildmay, a younger son of Thomas Mildmay, of Barnes, was seated in the reign of James I. It is a very pleasant village, and is inhabited by persons of the greatest respectability.

The church of Great Badow is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and has a north and south aisle. It has a square stone tower, in which are five bells; with a spire. The church contains an organ. Maud, daughter of Robert Earl of Gloucester, and wife of Robert Gernon, gave the advowson in 1172 to the priory of Repington in Derbyshire, her own foundation; and Henry III. confirmed it to that priory in 1252. Upon that it became appropriated to the priory, and a vicarage was ordained and endowed, which continued in the patronage of that house till its suppression, at least till 1537, when John Young, prior of Repington, alienated the advowson to Francis Bryan. The great tithes coming to the crown, Edward VI. gave this parsonage, then valued at 8*l.* 1*s.*, and the tithes at 16*l.* 1*s.* per annum, to Sir Walter Henley, Knight, who the same year, with Clement Smith, alienated the rectory and church, and advowson of the vicarage, to John Paschal, Esq.; in which family it continued a considerable length of time. In 1554 John Paschal sold the parsonage-house to John Sammes and his wife for life, and disposed of another part of it to John Brooke. About 1732 Lord Fermanagh sold the advowson to Mrs. Anne Percival, of Clatford, in Wiltshire, who granted it to the Rev. Julius Herring: he conveyed it to other persons. In this church were anciently two very considerable chantries: one was

founded by Margaret, wife of Thomas Coggeshall, Esq., and others. The yearly value, at the time of the suppression, amounted to 20*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* Edward VI. granted it, with the manor of Springfield Barnes, to William Mildmay, Esq. The other chantry, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, was founded by Thomas Killy, formerly butler to Thomas de Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester; and afterwards to Henry V. and Queen Catharine. He died in 1449, and was buried in the church. At the time of the suppression this chantry was valued at 14*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* per annum. In the parish formerly stood a free chapel, dedicated to St. John the Baptist. In 1557 all the lands belonging to it were granted to John Drake and others. Lord Petre had it in 1613. There are alms-houses for five poor dwellers, and a few charitable donations. The living is valued in the king's books at 18*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, and is not discharged.

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S A N D O N.

THIS word, in the Saxon language, signifies sandy hill, which occasioned undoubtedly the name of the parish. There is no account of it in Domesday-book. After the survey it was in the noble family of Scales, who came in with the Conqueror. William de Cleydon held under this family certain lands here; he held this manor also under the heirs of Aylmer de Valence, Earl of Pembroke. Aylmer was murdered in 1323. His next heir and heiresses were, John de Hastings, Elizabeth Comyns, and Joan Countess of Athol. John de Hastings, dying in 1325, settled the estate on William de Beauchamp, his aunt's son. About the sixteenth year of the reign of Richard II. Thomas Newenton held the manor of Sandon. In 1422 Thomas Coggeshall had it of the king. The manor was afterwards in the crown, for Henry VIII. granted it to Cardinal Wolsey, on whose attainder it reverted to the crown. Thomas Tamworth held it of that king; and John Tamworth in 1564 alienated this and other lands to John Goodey of Braintree. In 1583 Robert Goodey sold the manor to Antony Everard, Esq., of Great Waltham. Anne, his granddaughter, brought this and other lordships in marriage to Sir William Maynard, Knight and Baronet, of Little Easton, in this county; created a baron in 1620. William, the second lord, in 1652 conveyed the manor to Robert Abdy, Esq.; created a baronet in 1660. Sir John Abdy in 1679 sold it to Edmund Wiseman, Esq., of London: he in 1687 again conveyed it to Henry Collins, Esq., of the Middle Temple. There were other lands held in this parish.



Sandon church is dedicated to St. Andrew, and consists of a body, chancel, and north aisle. The steeple, which is of brick, contains five bells. The living is a rectory, and continued a great length of time in the families of Scales and Gate. Queen Mary I. granted the advowson of it to Susan Tonge, who presented to it four times. The greatest ornament of this parish, and a very great honour to the nation, was the learned Brian Walton, editor of the Polyglot Bible. He was instituted to this rectory in 1635. He was dispossessed of this living in 1641, but repossessed it in 1660. He died in 1661. The living is valued in the king's books at 13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, and is not discharged.

### H A N N I N G F I E L D.

THIS parish is generally called Hanville. The name is derived from the Saxon. There are three parishes of this name adjoining to each other, about six or seven miles south-east of Chelmsford, and distinguished by the names of East, West, and South. Before the Conquest these lands were held by Friebert and others. At the time of the survey they were in Odo Bishop of Bayeux, William of Warin, and Ralph Baynard. The lordships of these parishes were afterwards vested in the Montchenfy family. The founder of this family, Hubert de Monte Canisio, or Montchenfy, was in the Conqueror's reign lord of Edwardston, in Suffolk. Dionysia, wife of Hugh De Vere, second son of Robert De Vere, Earl of Oxford, and daughter of William de Montchenfy, who died in 1255, became sole heiress of this estate; her cousin, Aylmer, or Audomar de Valence, was the next heir, who died in the reign of Edward II., seized of South Hanningfield, and the advowsons of the churches of East and West Hanningfield. His three sisters became sole heiresses; and upon the partition of the estate these three manors were allotted to his second sister, Isabel, wife of John de Hastings, Baron of Bergavenny, who survived him. John de Hastings was her son and heir. The Hastings were afterwards Earls of Pembroke. John Earl of Pembroke settled the manors on his aunt's son, William de Beauchamp, younger son of Thomas Earl of Warwick. He possessed the three Hanningfields, and died in 1411. Sir Edward Neville held the manors in right of his wife, Elizabeth Beauchamp. They remained in the Nevilles till Henry Neville, Lord Abergavenny,



venny, fold them to Lord Petre, who died in 1635, and they have been ever since enjoyed by his posterity.

### EAST HANNINGFIELD.

THIS part was supposed to belong to one Norman in the time of the Confessor; and at the time of the survey was held by Ralph Baynard, lord of Dunmor. Henry, grandson of Ralph Baynard, having forfeited his estate by aiding the Earl of Maine and others against Henry I., that king gave it to Robert, a younger son of Richard Fitz-Gilbert, progenitor of the Earls of Clare and Baron Fitz-Walter. It continued in this family till Elizabeth, heiress and daughter of Walter Fitz-Walter, brought it to the Radcliffe family. Lord Petre possesses the chief lordship in this parish. There are two other manors; that of Claidons, alias Haveningfield, and the manor of Canon Barnes.

The manor of Claidons, alias Havining, or Hanningfield, was so called from ancient possessors of that name. Sir William Hanningfield was a knight banneret in the reign of Edward I. William Claydon, who died in 1330, possessed a manor in East Hanningfield. Sir Thomas Hille, Knight, who died in 1485, held the manor of Claydon of Lord Fitz-Walter. In the 36th of Henry VIII. William Lathom, Gent., held this manor. Sir Edward Sulyard, who died 1610, also held it of the Earl of Suffex. The estate is now the property of Lord Petre.

The mansion of the manor of Canon Barnes stands about a mile from the church towards South Hanningfield. The estate lies partly in this parish and partly in the next. Sir Walter Mildmay in 1589 died in possession of this manor, then valued at 8*l.* a year. It is now in Philip Broke, Esq., of Nacton, in Suffolk. East Hanningfield Lodge is another estate in this parish; the others are chiefly small parcels. Here is a charity of 16*l.* per annum for old women; and a field of 4*l.* per annum given to the poor. Andrew de Woodeyre had licence in Edward I.'s reign to give forty acres of arable in East Hanningfield to the prior and convent of Bickenacre.

The church is a rectory appendant to the manor, and is valued at 13*l.* 15*s.* 7½*d.* in the king's books, and is not discharged. At the north side of the church is a chapel or chantry built with brick.



## WEST HANNINGFIELD.

THIS parish, at the time of the survey, was held by William Warren, Earl of Surry. There are the following manors here, besides the chief lordship: Clovileshall, Hanningfield Temple, and Hanningfield Parages, Peverells and Cherviles.

Clovileshall stands about a mile north-west of the church; it is written sometimes Coleville, and takes its name from a very ancient family. In the reign of Henry II. William de Cloville held three knights fees here of Walter de Meduana. It continued in that family till the seventeenth century. Mr. Richard Finch had it after them.

Hanningfield Temple, and Hanningfield Parages, Pages, or Paggets. It was called Temple, because some of the lands formerly belonged to the knights templars; the other name is derived from some family. Henry VIII. in 1541 granted these manors to John Cannon, citizen of London, who died possessed of them in 1547. His son dying without issue, gave his estates to his half-brother, Richard Humfrey, Esq. Edmund Humfrey, dying in 1727, left his estates here to Humphrey Sidney, Esq., of Margaretting. Hanningfield Temple next belonged to — Drage, Esq. Daniel Williams, D. D. bought it of — Drage, and it was then rented at 38*l.* per annum: He gave the Temple manor in 1712 to his wife for life, and after her decease to the cities of Glasgow and Edinburgh for alms-houses.

The manor of Peverells was so named from a family surnamed Peverell. The mansion-house stands about a mile from the church. By a survey taken of this manor in 1611 it contains 308 acres and more. William Clovile had it in 1469. John Tanfield in 1625 had a moiety of it of Peter Whetcomb, and the other moiety of Lord Petre: he married Elizabeth Clovile. Daniel Tanfield sold it to Daniel Williams, D. D.

Cherviles manor-house stands about a quarter of a mile behind the church. It derived its name from an owner. About the year 1254 there was a trial between Ernald de Berkeld and Michael de Chervile and others about their common of pasture in West Hanningfield, belonging to the free tenement of the said Chervile. John Wawton, who died in 1489, held the manor of Lord Abergavenny. It came by marriage to John Cannon, when it was called the hamlet of Cherviles. It afterwards belonged to Mr. Humphrey, and then to Humphrey Sidney, Esq. A considerable



considerable manor here in Domesday-book was anciently called Benedested, and gave name to Petronilla de Benedested, and Albric de Bensted. The name of Bensted Common still remains; this appears to be that part of the manor which lies part in this parish and in that of Rettenden belonging to Ely.

Richard Cannon gave 5*l.* per annum to the poor of the parish in bread for ever, Mrs. Humphrey 40*s.* for ever to poor widows, to take no collection, to be paid out of Cherviles.

The church of West Hanningfield consists of a body and south aisle, as does the chancel. It is dedicated to St. Edward, and was a rectory appendant on the manor, of course was in the gift of the lord; but it has lately been alienated. At the west end is a tower, containing four bells, with a spire of wood. There is an old monument of the Cloviles, with a French inscription, in the church. Here is an excellent parsonage-house, with a brick front fashioned; thus improved by Mr. Henry Burton, rector. The rectory is not discharged, and is valued in the king's books at 16*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

#### SOUTH HANNINGFIELD.

THERE is only one lordship in this parish, which passed through the families of Montchenfy, Valence, Hastings, Beauchamp, Neville; and then came to Lord Petre. The manor of Baron, alias Barne-hall, extends partly into this parish. South Hanningfield-hall, an estate of about 140*l.* per annum, belonged to Amery Pratt, Gent. Here are two estates named Prestons: Great Prestons belonged to Mr. Langley; and Little Prestons, to Humphrey Sidney, Esq. William Pascall, second son of John Pascall, of Great Baddow, Esq., had these estates formerly.

The church is a rectory of late appendant on the manor. At first it belonged to the priory and convent of Ledes, in Kent, a monastery of black canons of the order of St. Augustine, founded in 1119 by Robert de Crevecoeur, and so continued inclusively till the year 1401. It afterwards came into the noble family of Beauchamp, Neville, and Petre; the latter of which has lately disposed of it. The church is of one pace with the chancel. The tower has a spire on the top, and contains only one bell. The university of Cambridge presented in 1755 upon the death of Mr. Burton. The rectory is valued in the king's books at 10*l.*, and is not discharged.



## RETTENDEN.

THIS parish derives its name from two Saxon words, signifying sad, and riding; the lordship belonged originally to the nunnery of Ely, founded in 673 by Ethelreda; and when a bishopric was established at Ely in 1108, this estate became part of its endowment. Some parts of it have been held by the families of Bouchier and De la Hay under the Bishop, which have given name to two reputed manors in this parish, though at present there are only two in the whole, that of Rettenden place, or hall, and Hide-hall. In the fifth of King John, the Bishop of Ely enclosed the wood of Rettenden, and in the 32d of Henry III. had a park here. The capital manor of Rettenden continued in the Bishops of Ely till it was alienated, either in the reign of Henry VIII. or Queen Elizabeth. In 1601 it was granted to Richard Barrell and others, to be held in free socage of the manor of East Greenwich. It was next in the Canne family. Richard dying without issue, gave it to his half-brother, Richard Humphrey, Esq. Richard Brydges, who died in 1606, was his cousin and next heir, but did not possess. Edmund Humphrey, who died in 1727, gave all his estates in this parish to William Fitch, Esq., of Danbury-place, paying 20*l.* yearly for ever for a school to be erected here. The manor-house lies north-west of the church.

Bouchiers is also another manor. Robert Lord Bouchier, who died in 1349, held it of the Bishop of Ely. It is uncertain whether it was not either that of Hide-hall, or Little-haies.

Hide-hall is about a mile and half from the church, towards Woodham Ferrars, and belongs to — Western, Esq.

Little-haies, or Lattel-haies, is so called from the Hay or De la Hay family, which possessed it in the time of Henry II. Ralph De la Hay held it in Henry III.'s reign of the Bishop of Ely. William, son of William de Montcheny, was his next heir. Henry Bouchier, Earl of Essex, in 1483, held the manor of the Dean of St. Paul's. Henry, his grandson and heir, succeeded, and being killed by a fall from his horse in 1539, left his only daughter and heiress, Anne, wife of Sir William Parre, afterwards Earl of Essex and Marquis of Northampton. She died possessed of this manor, held of the Bishop of Ely. John Cely held it at the time of his death in 1588. It afterwards came to Sir Henry Savile, Knight, who made it part of his endowment of two professorships in Oxford of geometry and astronomy. This manor



has a royalty belonging to it, and lies a little below Battle-bridge. The rent was lately 85*l.* per annum, but formerly 110*l.* The house is rather inferior. There is an estate in this parish called Merks, purchased in 1706 by the trustees of Edmund Lee, Esq., who gave 1000*l.* for putting out five boys of the parish of Egham, in Surry, as apprentices yearly to watermen. In case they should neglect to do it, then the profit was to go to the poor of Staines. The estate, when first purchased, was let at 50*l.* per annum, but is since reduced to 40*l.* Here are some other small donations.

The church consists of a body and chancel, with a chapel or chantry on the north side; at the west end is a stone steeple embattled, having a low spire. In this steeple are five bells. It is dedicated to All Saints, and the patronage is in the Bishops of Ely. The rectory is not discharged, and is valued in the king's books at 32*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.*

#### R U N W E L L.

THIS parish received its name, in all probability, from some running well here. The chief manor anciently belonged to the cathedral church of St. Paul, being given to it by King Athelstan, and consisted of twelve farms. It was seized at the Norman Conquest; for King William restored to God, St. Paul, and their servants, six habitations, to maintain as many families, or so many hides as had been taken away from the church. Two other manors were possessed here in the Saxons' time; and at the time of the general survey by Eustace, Earl of Boulogne, and under him by Lambert and Athelwolf. From these arose the three following manors: that of Runwell-hall, that of Sandon, and Flemings.

The manor of Runwell-hall has a mansion-house, situated about a mile from the church. This manor was in the dean and chapter of St. Paul, and continued in them till 1546, when Henry VIII. obtained possession of it; and the same year made a grant of it to Sir Anthony Browne and his heirs. At the king's death, which happened before the deeds had been all executed, this grant was rendered ineffectual; for in the first of Edward VI. St. Paul's church remained possessed of it; when they exchanged it with the king for the manor of Mucking in this county, and the advowson of the church, and three other parsonages for the advowson of the vicarage. The exchange was made under the name of Romewell in Essex, and it was then



valued at about 37*l.* 10*s.* The parsonages they obtained in the place of it were Charing in Kent, High Easter in this county, and Therfield in Hertfordshire. Lord Clinton, the next possessor, granted it in 1553 to Sir John Gate, upon whose attainder, which took place the same year, Queen Mary granted it to Susan Tonge above mentioned, first lady of her bedchamber. She gave the reversion to her brother's son after her death, George White, Esq., and heirs. It continued in that family till 1679, when it was sold to Mr. Simon Rogers, citizen of London, a native of Leicestershire.

The manor of Sandon is undoubtedly incorporated with the others. A gentleman of the name of Sandon held an estate in Rawreth in Henry III.'s reign. It was most probably one of the two fees held by Simon de Merk in 1210. Henry VIII. is supposed to have granted this estate to Cardinal Wolsey.

The manor of Flemings was the feat of an ancient family, from which its name was derived. The mansion-house stands at a distance from the church, and, though formerly very large, is now taken down. In 1327 Robert Fleming enjoyed it. About the year 1470 John Fleming held it of the church of St. Paul. He died without issue, leaving three sisters. It next came by marriage into the Sulyard family. In 1692 Edward Sulyard dying unmarried, the estate came to his two nieces: Anne, married to Charles Parker; and Dorothy, married to William Marlow. Linfords is on the left of the road from Rettenden to Runwell, and almost a mile from the church. Newland fee is also a hamlet of this parish. There are two small alms-houses.

The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary; it consists of a nave and south aisle. At the west end is a square stone tower, containing four bells, and on the top is a spire shingled. The advowson of the church has been long appendant on the manor of Flemings; but of late has been in the Pugh family. The living is not discharged, and is valued in the king's books at 13*l.*

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### MOUNTNEYSING, OR MUNNASSING.

THE Mountneys were the ancient lords of the capital manor here, from whom this place derived the first syllable of the name; the termination ing is Saxon, and signifies pasture. It bore the name of Ginge Mountneys as early as the reign of



Henry III. In the Saxons' time it was possessed by freemen; and at the time of the survey, was held by Ranulf, brother of Ilger. The parish contains the manors of Mountneyfing, Bacons, Chevers, Cowbridge, and Arnolds.

The mansion-house of the manor of Mountneyfing stands at a very short distance from the church. The family of Mountney was of great antiquity in this parish, previous to the reign of Stephen. The manor continued in this family till Henry VIII.'s reign. About the beginning of Queen Elizabeth it was in the possession of — Hamon. William Wilford, marrying Agnes Hamon, held this manor in her right. After his death she married Henry Wentworth. It was soon after purchased by Sir William Petre; and has ever since continued in that family.

The manor of Bacons was so called from a family of that name. In the latter end of Edward I.'s reign, Edmund Bacunne and his brother held it, and enclosed woods, and converted them into a park. That wood and their manor were held of John de Ginges by the service of a fourth part of a knight's fee. In 1514 Sir William Capell held this manor of John de Mountney: he was ancestor to the present Earl of Essex. Sir William Petre purchased it soon after, and died in possession of it in 1571. It has continued ever since in his posterity.

The manor of Chevers derived its name from a family of Capri, or De Capra, afterwards converted into Chevre, the French word for goat. In 1206 a fine passed between Nicolas Capri and Hamo Capri of this place. It was in this family in Henry VI.'s reign.

The manor of Cowbridge extends as far as the Red Lion inn at Billericay, and then proceeding as far as the watch-house, goes down the lane that leads to Brentwood. In the time of the Saxons it was in Aluvin; but at the survey the owner was Ranulf, brother of Ilger. A family derived their surname from it; for Richard de Cobridge was mentioned in a deed of Roger de Ginges in the reign of Henry III. This manor became part of the possessions of the abbey of Stratford Langthorn, which obtained free warren for it in Ginges Mountney. After the suppression of monasteries, it came into the possession of Sir Richard Riche, who alienated it in 1545 to Sir William Petre for the sum of 453*l.* 10*s.* It was then valued at 20*l.* per annum. Here are two farms of this name, Great and Little Cowbridge; but the former is only a manor. They both belong to Lord Petre.

The manor of Arnolds is supposed to have taken its name from Sir Arnulph de Mountney, whose seat it is reported to have been. The mansion-house lies about



a mile out of the London road, on the left-hand going from Chelmsford. The building is large, and shews great antiquity. Till the reign of Henry VII. no mention is made of this estate. In 1493 Henry Elvedon, Esq., died in possession of the manor, which he held of William Capel. The next possessor after this family was John Brock, Esq. In 1569 a writ was issued to him, and Lady Ann, his wife, daughter of the Earl of Oxford, late wife of the Earl of Sheffield, to deliver to John Tompfon, Esq., the manor of Arnolds, with appurtenances, 4 messuages, 4 cottages, 4 tofts, 2 mills, 2 dove-houses, 4 gardens, 4 orchards, 200 acres of arable, 120 acres of meadow, 400 of pasture, and 20 of wood, 100 of heath, 100 of marsh and manor land, and 40 shillings rent, with the free warren and fishery, in Gyng Mountney-fing. It was next in the family of Pert: John Pert died in 1583, and is buried in the chancel of this church. This family of Pert, or Peart, was originally of Yorkshire; in whom it continued till they became extinct in 1735.

The dissolved priory of Thobie, or Thoby, stands in this parish. It was founded in King Stephen's reign by Michael de Capra for the canons of St. Augustine, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary and St. Leonard. The founders granted one hide of land and panage for 40 hogs, and full pasture for cattle and tithes of their mill and hay, with sufficient wood. From Tobias, their first prior, it undoubtedly took its name. The patronage was in the Mountney family. It was one of the smaller monasteries granted to Cardinal Wolsey in 1525, and suppressed in order to be added to his two colleges; the temporalities were then valued at 56*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*, the spiritualities at 18*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* a year. Its revenues consisted of the manors of Thobie, Ging Mountney, Blunteswalls, and Cubford, with the rectory of this church, and advowson of the vicarage; 60 messuages, 2000 acres of arable land, 1000 of pasture, 60 of meadow, 100 of wood, and 12*l.* 7*s.* 9½*d.* rent in this and other parishes. Upon the cardinal's forfeiture they again fell to the crown, and the manor, with the site of the priory, were granted in 1530 by Henry VIII. to Sir Richard Page, Knight; and the reversion of the same in 1539 to William Berners and Dorothy his wife: he died in 1558. Grifilda, daughter and heiress of William Berners, marrying Thomas Baker, Esq., died in 1589 possessed of this estate. It appears to be afterwards in the Berners family again. It was next in the family of Prescot, of Lancashire, in whom it continued.

The church is dedicated to St. Giles, or St. Leonard, and consists of a body and two aisles; the chancel has a south aisle or chantry; at the west end is a wooden frame,



frame, with a shingled shaft, and one bell. The church was appropriated to the priory of Thoby, of which the monks continued in possession till the dissolution; there was a vicarage also ordained, of which they remained patrons. It then came to the crown, when Henry VIII. granted it in 1545 to Sir William Petre, and the advowson of the vicarage, in lieu of another manor, which Sir William gave up to the king. They have ever since continued in the Petre family. The living is discharged, and valued in the king's books at 27*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.*

### INGATESTONE.

THIS is a market town, and lies about 23 miles from London on the high road to Chelmsford and Colchester. The market is on Wednesday, and is chiefly for live cattle: there is a fair on the 20th of November. Part of the houses on the west side, and a few on the east, lie in the parish of Frierning; the rest are in Ingatestone. The Saxon word *ing* signifies pasture, the ending syllables at stone import, that here was formerly one of the Roman milliary stones, for they were accustomed to set up stones as we do to mark the miles on the road. It is not improbable that they began to reckon their miles here from London stone in Watling-street, as it was one of the great military ways in this island. Ingatestone was variously written in old records *Ging* and *Ing ad petram*; and sometimes *Ging Abbess*, because it belonged to the abbess of St. Mary at Barking. In the parish are three manors; that of Ingatestone; Hanley, alias Hauley; and that of Wood Barnes: they all belonged to Barking nunnery, founded by Erkenwald, Bishop of London, in 675. The abbess and nuns continued in possession of these manors till their dissolution, when they came to the crown. Henry VIII. in 1539 granted this manor in consideration of the sum of 849*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* to William Petre, L.L.D. and his heirs for ever; and in that family it now remains. William Petre, Esq., it is probable, alienated them for a short time in 1540.

The manor of Hanley, or Hauley, belonged to the nunnery at Barking. Henry VIII. in 1539 granted it to Elizabeth Hill, widow of Richard Hill, servant of the king; and from her it came to Sir William Petre, who died in 1571.

The manor of Wood Barnes, after the dissolution in 1540, was granted by Henry VIII. to John Smith, Esq., and heirs. These estates have all centered in the  
Petre



Petre family. Sir William Petre becoming lord of the chief part of the parish, made Ingatestone-hall the seat of his residence, as have many of his successors. It is a large ancient edifice, standing in a bottom, well supplied with water, which is stocked with fish. In 1555 Sir William procured a bull from the pope to secure himself the better in his property, which had belonged to the monasteries. This bull confirmed to him and his heirs the manor and advowson, &c., under pretence that he was ready to assign and demise the rectories therein mentioned to spiritual uses.

The Hide is a very good house, and belonged to the family of Brand, who built it in 1721. Here are some charitable foundations. An alms-house for 10 dwellers, 7 women and 3 men, founded by Sir William Petre in 1557. The endowment is 48*l.* a year, paid out of Crondon park; an estate of 18*l.* a year out of Butsbury; 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* yearly out of a farm called Ramsey Tirrels; and 18*l.* a year out of a copyhold estate in Frierning, belonging to Wadham college, in lieu of 6 cows, 2 for the priest and 4 for the poor, which were to be fed on Ingatestone manor. The minister is priest to this hospital, and has 4*l.* per annum, 6*l.* in lieu of cows, 15*s.* for a gown, and 1*l.* 16*s.* for wood. Each of the poor has 6*s.* 8*d.* a month, 24*s.* every year for wood, and 12*s.* for a gown. Ten other poor, who have no dwelling, have 2*s.* 8*d.* a month of this charity. On Christmas Eve there is 6*s.* 8*d.* distributed to the poor of Ingatestone, and on Easter Eve 13*s.* 4*d.* to forty poor; 5*s.* at the auditing accounts by the ministers of Ingatestone, Mountnessing, and Butsbury, to be spent: 2*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.* yearly to be deposited in the chest towards the repairs of the hospital, and of Lord Petre's chancel, built for the poor. The whole endowment is 90*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* per annum.

The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and stands on the east side of the street; a row of pillars in the middle divides it into two paces, which are continued through the chancel. At the west end is a high tower of brick, embattled, containing five bells. North of the chancel is a chapel of brick, rather large, erected for the purpose of being a burial-place to the Petre family. It is a rectory not discharged, and is valued in the king's books at 16*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*



## BUTSBURY, ALIAS GINGES JOIBERD, AND GINGE LAUNDRY.

THIS parish is written in old records, Buttesbury and Butterbury, and Botolps Bury. In the time of the Saxons it was held by Bond; at the time of the survey, by Henry de Ferrers, and is called in Domesday-book Cinga. There are seven manors in this parish: Blunts, alias Joiberd Laundry; Frisfling, alias Thrustling-hall; Impey-hall; the hamlet, manor, and park of Crondon; the manor of Whites; that of Ramseys, or Ramsey Tirrels; and Buckwyns; but some of them extend to and almost comprehend the adjoining parish of Stock.

The manor of Blunts, or Ginge Joiberd Laundry, took its name from an ancient family of Blunts; the derivation of the other two words is not known. Robert de Blund held it in the reign of Henry III.: he was attainted for joining with Simon de Montford, Earl of Leicester, and other barons, against the king; and his estates coming to the crown, were granted, with the advowson of the church of Ginge Joiberds, to John de Weston: they again appear in the Blunt family. Henry de Ferrars, who died in 1343, had the fourth part of a fee here, and the eighth part of another. Elizabeth Ferrars, wife of Sir Edward Gray, Knight, had this estate by descent. Her uncle, Thomas de Ferrars, held it of her. From the Ferrars it came by purchase, about the year 1590, to Paul Bayning, Esq., whose son was created a viscount. Anne Bayning marrying Albrey De Vere, Earl of Oxford, brought him this and other valuable estates; but having no issue, it came to her aunt, Elizabeth Bayning, who married Lord Dacre; the fourth part of the Bayning estate which she inherited, she left to her younger son, Henry Lennard, in which was included Blunts-hall, and that part which was in Stock. He left three daughters coheiresses, who sold this estate to Lady Comyns in 1746; widow of Sir John Comyns, Knight, and Chief Baron of the Exchequer. Viscount Bayning compounded with the crown for disforesting the manor of Joiberd Laundri, or Blunts, in Butsbury and Stock, containing above 200 acres, and then rented at 111*l.* per annum. The mansion-house of Blunts stands on the right side of the road leading from Stock to Billericay.

The manor of Frisfling, or Thrustling-hall, has a mansion-house, standing about the middle of the way between Stock and Margaretting in the fields. At the time of the survey it belonged to the nunnery of St. Mary's at Barking. It was after that



in the hands of Fitz-Richard and Brudenell. Nicolas Fitz-Richard had it in 1391 of the Duke of Gloucester. Drugo Brudenell had it in 1489 of Sir Thomas Tyrrel. It now belongs to Lord Petre.

Impey-hall, or Impeyheye mansion-house, stands about a mile south-east of Butsbury church. The estate was part of the endowment of the nunnery at Ickleton, in Cambridgeshire, founded about 1140 by Aubrey De Vere, Earl of Oxford. It continued in their possession till the suppression. Henry VIII. in 1538 granted the manor of Impey-hall to Thomas Goodrich, Bishop of Ely, in exchange for the manor of Hatfield's Bishop in that fee. There is no account when it was taken from that bishoprick, but in all probability it was in Queen Elizabeth's reign. It has belonged to Lord Petre for a considerable time.

The hamlet, manor, and park of Crondon. This estate may not improperly be placed under Butsbury, because it appears to make a part of that parish, and lies between that, Stock, and Margaretting. In some respects it more properly belongs to Orset, except as much of it as pays tithes to the rector of Stock. Some of the lands come up to the road which leads from Chelmsford to Billericay. It is not ascertained who were the first possessors of this estate; but it became a parcel of the bishoprick of London. It belonged to the crown in the reign of Henry VIII., who in 1545 granted the manor and park of Crondon for 160*l.* to Sir William Petre, Knight. It was then valued at 8*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* His heirs have enjoyed it ever since. The part which was formerly in park lands is now converted into farms. Out of this estate there are 48*l.* per annum paid to the hospital at Ingatestone.

The manor of Whites and the manor of Ramseys, or Ramsey Tyrells, belonged formerly to the same family, and therefore are joined together. The Tyrells had them. The manor of Whites is sometimes called Whitley, or Whitches. The mansion-house is about half way between Stock and Butsbury, on the right-hand side of the road from Stock. Sir John Tyrell, Knight, who died in 1476, held the manor of Elizabeth, queen of Edward IV., by fealty. In this family it has continued. In right of these estates they have the disposal of the rectory of Stock every third vacancy. Out of Ramseys 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* is paid to the hospital at Ingatestone.

The manor of Buckwyns, or Buckeskin, was an estate that belonged formerly to the abbot of Stratford Langthorn. After the dissolution of that monastery Henry VIII. in 1531 let it on lease of twenty-six years to Thomas Rigge at the yearly rent of 10*l.* 2*s.* In the 31st year of his reign he alienated it to Sir Richard Rich and his wife.



In 1540 Sir Richard sold the manor to Walter Farre and others. Notwithstanding this, according to some accounts, he is said to have sold it in 1551 to Thomas Marshe; but it remained in the family of Farre. About the year 1739 it was in the Taverner family; they sold it to Mr. Vernon of the Hide in Frierning, a merchant of London. Out of an estate in Catlyns in this parish, 18*l.* per annum is paid to Ingatestone hospital.

The church of Butsbury is very small, in length it is only, with the steeple included, 38 feet, and 21 wide on the outside. It had formerly two small aisles, 10 feet high from the ground, which opened into the church by two handsome Gothic arches. The chancel is 28 feet long, and 21 wide on the outside. A flint and stone tower is, at the west end, square; on the top is a shingled spire: it contains three bells. The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and was formerly appropriated to the nunnery of St. Leonard, Stratford, near Bow, now called St. Leonard, Bromley, in Middlesex. St. Leonard had a hermitage or cell near this place. Upon the dissolution of religious houses, this coming to the crown, was in 1538 granted by Henry VIII. to Sir Ralph Sadler, Knight, with the rectory of Butsbury, &c. Two years after, Sir Ralph alienated this rectory to Sir William Petre, Knight, by which means it came into that family. The church is a curacy or donative, served by such person as the owner of the rectory is pleased to appoint, licensed by the bishop. The certified value of it is 14*l.* per annum. Divine service is here only performed once every month, or five weeks.

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#### STOCK OR HERWARDSTOCK, HAVERDSTOCK OR HERTFORD-STOCK.

THIS parish derives the name of Stock from the Saxon word stock or log; the origin of the word Herward is difficult, if not impossible, to discover: here was a forest in all probability. It was anciently supposed to be a hamlet of Butsbury, not only because it is enclosed on all sides by that parish, except the east, but particularly because all the lands are held in it of three adjoining manors in Butsbury, but especially that of Blunts. In the reign of Henry III. Geoffrey the monk was possessed of lands in Ginges Joiberds, with the advowson of the church of Stock. The chief part of the lands became afterwards vested in the noble family of the Ferrars of Groby.



Grobby. From this family it passed to James Lord Berkeley, in whose heirs it continued till it was sold in the reign of Elizabeth to Paul Bayning, Esq., sheriff of London, in 1593. Anne of this family before mentioned, marrying Albrey De Vere, Earl of Oxford, brought this estate to him as part of the manor of Blunts; it then went to her aunt for want of issue; after that it passed with that manor in a similar way. A messuage and 60 acres of land in this parish, called Danyell, were held by Sir Thomas Tyrell, who died in 1476, of John Lord Bouchier of his manor of Blunts. Henry VIII. in 1525 granted the same to Cardinal Wolsey, on whose attainder they reverted to the crown. Henry granted them in 1544 to Sir William Petre and his heirs. There are at present but two houses in the parish of any note. The chief part of this parish is pleasantly situated on a small hill. In some places the soil is gravelly; but towards the common, which is large, and nearly joins that of Gallow on the north, and Ramsden on the south-west, the soil is a kind of loam, called brick and pot earth by the inhabitants, because there is a kiln for each of these manufactures, lying however in Butsbury. The bricks here made are reputed the best in these parts. Here is a very inconsiderable charitable donation.

The church is dedicated to All Saints, and is rather large, having two aisles; the old steeple was supposed to be demolished by fire some years ago; the present steeple is of wood; it consists of large thick wooden planks fixed in deep grooves behind the studs. In the steeple are a clock and three bells. An altar, tomb, and inscription, are in the church, inscribed to Richard Twedye, Esq.: he is praised for his munificence in it to the poor knights: this liberal gift is twelve pence a week to each poor man. The advowson of the rectory is in the lords of Blunts manor, and of Ramseys Tyrell. The former present twice together, and the latter has every third turn. Charles Hoole, M.A. was eminent as a scholar here, and rector of the parish in 1660, as was the Rev. Thomas Cox. The rectory is valued at 10*l.* in the king's books, and is not discharged.

#### MARGARETTING, OR MARGETING.

THIS parish is also called Ging Margaret to distinguish it from the adjoining ones. The church was dedicated to St. Margaret, and from thence the parish received the appellation. In the Saxon times the lands in this parish were in the possession of Siward and others; but at the survey they were in Robert Gernon and



others. There are three manors in the parish ; that of Margeting, Copisfold-deale or Cold-hall, and Shenfield.

The manor of Margeting, in the twelfth year of the reign of Henry II., in 1166, was held by John de Sandford, under the name of Ginge. Alice, daughter and heiress of Gilbert de Sandford, held this manor and estates ; she married Robert De Vere, Earl of Oxford ; they were given to Joan De Vere, sister to the earl's son, and wife of William de Warren, son of the Earl of Surry. Edward II., in the eighth year of his reign, confirmed to Edmund Earl of Arundel, in fee, the manor of Margaretting among others. He was beheaded in 1347 at the instigation of his brother Lord Mortimer ; when Edward III. confirmed these manors in 1348 to John de Warren, Earl of Surry. He dying without legitimate issue in 1357, left his sister Alice, widow of Edmund Earl of Arundel, next heiress by blood : her son had his honours and estates restored to him which had been taken from his father Edmund, and was succeeded in them by his sons Richard and Thomas, who died possessed of a moiety of this manor in 1415, the other moiety being then held by Elizabeth Dutcheffs of Norfolk, then wife of Sir Gerard Ufflete, Knight, and by Joan de Beauchamp, Lady Bergavenny, and Margaret, wife of Sir Rowland Lenthall, his sisters and heiresses. William Scott, Esq., who died in 1491, held the manor of the king. John Berdfield and his son held it soon after ; the next heiresses were his aunts, his father's sisters, Margaret, wife of Robert Gedge, and Thomasine, wife of William Daniell. There is a doubt, however, whether this does not relate to Copfold-hall. Sir William Petre, who died in 1572, held the manor of the queen, and it has ever since continued in that noble family. By some accounts it appears as if this manor had belonged to the priory of St. Laurence, in Blackmore, in this county. The monastery had unquestionably a considerable estate here. In 1525 it was undoubtedly granted by Henry VIII. to Cardinal Wolfey, with the rectory and advowson. Upon his fall they reverted to the crown, and were obtained by Sir William Petre, whose posterity enjoy the chief part of this parish.

The manor of Copisfold-deale, or Cold-hall, has a mansion-house, which stands half a mile from the London road on the right to Ingatestone. In 1250 and 1264 this manor was in the possession of Ralph de Gings, and after that in James Lambourne, who held it of the Earl of Oxford. Joane Lambourne had it, and marrying William Chene, he enjoyed it in her right in 1371. It was next in the family of Cloville, and was held under them by Thomas Berdfield in Henry VI.'s reign.

John



John Berdfield died in possession of it in 1514, leaving his father's sisters, Margaret, wife of Robert Gedge, and Thomasine, wife of William Daniell, his next heiresses. In the seventh year of Henry VIII.'s reign it was in Edward Cloville. In 1554 James Cloville died, leaving his sisters coheiresses, Elizabeth, wife of William Tanfield, of Harpelo, in Northamptonshire, and Mary, wife of Thomas Burges. The latter had an only daughter, who married Eugenius Gatton, of Stamford, who sold his part of the estate to — Hoy. Henry Bishop, Esq., bought this estate of Elizabeth and Martha Tanfield, in whose family it had been a long time. Mr. Bishop sold the estate again to Richard Benion, Esq., late governor of Fort St. George in the East Indies: he conveyed it to his brother, who sold it to Richard Holden, Esq., who made many improvements and additions to the house.

The manor of Shenfield is so called from two Saxon words, which signify a pleasant field. The house is in a bottom on the left-hand side of the road from Chelmsford to Ingatestone. It is moated round, and has a draw-bridge. There is no court kept here, although it is a manor. The estate was originally in a family of Gedge, or Gage, and came by marriage into that of Harris of Prittlewell. It was purchased of Christopher Harris in 1654, or his heirs, by Robert Wood, M. D. and L. L. D., a celebrated mathematician, and fellow of the Royal Society. His daughters sold this manor in 1714 to William Alexander, a wine-merchant of London, who gave it by will to Edward Alexander, of Doctors' Commons. Tradition reports, that this is one of the houses of pleasure where Henry VIII. resorted with his mistresses. A good feat here belongs to the Sidneys.

The church is dedicated to St. Margaret, and consists of a body and south aisle; at the west end is a wooden belfry, containing four bells, with a spire shingled. The tithes of the parish were formerly appropriated to the priory of St. Laurence in Blackmore, and a vicarage ordained, of which that convent was patron. In 1525 Cardinal Wolfey obtained them of Henry VIII., with the rest of the possessions of that priory, and settled them on his colleges of Oxford and Ipswich. Upon the fall of the cardinal they reverting to the crown, were appropriated to the abbey of Waltham Holy-crofs in 1533. After the dissolution Henry VIII. granted the rectory of this church in 1540 to Elizabeth Hill, widow, who the same year alienated it to Edward Bowland, Gent. He died in 1546 possessed of it, and the advowson of the vicarage; his son sold it in 1568 to William Lark, Esq.: he died in 1582; and Juliana, wife of Simon Clerk, and William Sookerman, both in Mildenhall, in Suffolk,



Suffolk, were his next heirs. They soon after alienated without the queen's licence, for which they procured a pardon. But they appear to have separated the great tithes, and the advowson of the vicarage; the latter has been a long time, and still continues, in Lord Petre's family; but the great tithes were in — Crowford of this place, who in 1720 sold them to John Hopkins, Esq. The vicarage is discharged, and is valued in the king's books at 48*l.* os. 3½*d.* Sir Nathaniel Curzon presented in 1744.

### F R I E R N I N G.

THE name of this parish denotes the friars or monks pasture, and was so called because it belonged to the brethren of St. John of Jerusalem's Hospital. In old records it is also called Gingeas. In the Saxons' time it belonged to Selva and others; and at the survey to Robert Gernon. His son and heir, William de Montfichet, succeeded Gilbert; his son granted in Henry II.'s reign half the manor to God, St. Mary, and St. John Baptist, and the poor of the holy house of St. John of Jerusalem, and the brethren serving God, in free alms, except the outer wood of Westfrid, which he reserved to himself and heirs. He also gave them the church, with lands. His son Richard appears to have given them the other part of the manor. The hospital also held one carucate of land in this parish under Philip Burnell, who died in the reign of Edward I. The premises continued in the knights of St. John of Jerusalem till the suppression, when they came to the crown. Henry VIII. then granted them to William Berners, Esq.: he died in 1558 possessed of the manor and advowson of the church. Grisild Berners coming to the property, married Thomas Baker, Esq., second son of Sir Richard Baker, of Kent. It next came to a person of the name of Whetcome. Dorothea Wadham having purchased it, made it part of the endowment of Wadham college at Oxford, where it still continues. They have also the advowson of the church. Dorothea was the second daughter of Sir William Petre; she married Nicolas Wadham, of Merryfield, in Somersetshire, who with her built that college. Charles Hornby, Esq., built a good house in the parish. The church is of one pace with the chancel. At the west end is a brick tower, in which are five bells. Robert Doiley, late rector here, left 1000*l.* to the corporation in London for the relief of clergymen's widows, &c.



## BLACKMORE.

THIS parish has its name from the nature of the soil. It is not to be found in Domesday-book. About the reign of Stephen and Henry II. all, or the greater part of the parish, was held by a family surnamed De Sandford, which had a small barony. This parish contains four reputed manors; the manor of Blackmore-hall, the site and manor of Blackmore priory, the manor of Copfechys, and that of Fingreth.

The manor of Blackmore lies about half a mile from the church, and is now called Smith's-hall; it was originally in the Sandford family. Adam and Jor'an De Sandford gave it to the priory, about the reign of Henry II. The priory was founded before, in the beginning of King John's reign. It was established for regular canons of the order of St. Augustine, and dedicated to St. Laurence, whence it was generally called the monastery or priory of St. Laurence de Blackmore. It continued till the year 1527, when Henry VIII. dissolved, and granted it, among others, to Cardinal Wolsey for the endowment of his college at Oxford. The revenues of the house amounted at that time to 85*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.* per annum. Upon the cardinal's attainder in 1529 it came to the crown; and two years after was granted by Henry VIII. to the abbey of Waltham Holy-crofs, in exchange for the manor of Stansted Abbots, and other lands, which they yielded to the king. In the grant they were allowed to hold a fair at Blackmore on St. Laurence's day, the day before and the day after. Upon the general dissolution of monasteries, this estate coming to the crown, Henry VIII. granted it in 1540 to John Smyth and his heirs, and it has ever since continued in his posterity. The family is derived from Sir Michael Carrington, standard-bearer to Richard I. in the holy war. One of the descendants in the fifteenth century changed his name to Smyth; Thomas Smyth, dying in 1724, left this and other estates by will to his niece, Mary Tendring; she dying unmarried in 1732, bequeathed them to her cousin, Thomas Alexander, upon condition that he should take the name of Smyth; he died in 1747, and left the estates to his nephew Charles; Thomas had previously left the impropriate rectory of this parish to his nephew, John Gibson, for life, who was vicar of Bromfield, and son of his sister; he dying without issue, the rectory descended to Charles Alexander, Esq. The priory stood near the church; Mr. Smyth sold the site of it in



1714 to Jacob Ackworth, a shipbuilder, who was afterwards knighted by George I.; he repaired it, and made some additions to the old buildings: as the workmen were repairing it, they found a leaden coffin, about a yard long, full of human bones, and other bones scattered about. It came after that to his heir, Jacob Wheat. This is reported to have been one of Henry VIII.'s pleasure-houses, and disguised by the name of Jericho. Thus when this lascivious prince had a mind to be lost in the embraces of his courtezans, the cant word among the courtiers was, that he was gone to Jericho. Here his natural son was born by Elizabeth Talbois, daughter of Sir John Blunt, and widow of Sir Gilbert Talbois. His name was Henry Fitz-Roy; and his father in 1525 created him Duke of Richmond and Somerset and Earl of Nottingham. He died in 1536.

The manor of Copfechys is very little known from ancient records. In 1484 Thomas Stalbroke held it of the Earl of Oxford. It is now incorporated into Smyth's-hall.

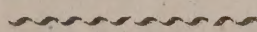
The manor of Fingreth was held of the king in capite by grand serjeantcy, that is, by the tenants having the honour of being chamberlain to the Queen of England, and having for the fee the furniture of the chamber, &c. It was in that manner held by Gilbert de Sandford, chamberlain to Eleanor Queen of Henry III.: his only daughter and heiress was married to Robert, son and heir of Hugh De Vere, Earl of Oxford. John Earl of Oxford being attainted for his adherence to the house of Lancaster, was beheaded in 1461, and his estates confiscated: but Henry VII. restored them to his son. The estate being squandered away by Edward, he sold them to Richard Branthwaite, Gent.; but he alienated it again soon after to Sir William Mildmay, chancellor of the exchequer. Sir John Mildmay inheriting these estates, married Mary, daughter of James Bancroft, Esq., of Derbyshire; but dying without issue, left to her and her heirs this estate and manor. She again married Robert Cory, D.D. rector of Danbury and Margaret Roding, and archdeacon of Middlesex. He died in 1704, and left an only daughter, Mary, who became the wife of William Fytch, Esq., and brought this estate into that family. At Queen Anne's coronation Dr. Cory and Mary his wife claimed the office of chamberlain to the queen; it was also claimed by the lord of this manor at the coronation of Queen Caroline, but disallowed, because not made out.

There is another manor, or part of one, here, named Wither Spains, which is supposed to be what the priory here held in Willingale Spain, or near it. It was in



Mr. William Baker. Half an acre here is given for the purpose of buying bell-ropes. George Callice of this parish, by will in 1580, gave lands here to four inhabitants, to distribute the rents of the same to six poor inhabitants of this parish: he also gave 20*l.*, the interest to be applied to the minister for preaching two sermons; the residue, with one shilling to the sexton, to the nine poorest inhabitants: here are other donations of a similar kind.

The church which now stands, is supposed to be part of the old priory church: it was appropriated to this monastery, and has ever since the suppression continued a donative or curacy in the gift of the impropriator. In 1720 Thomas Smyth, Esq., augmented it with tithes worth 400*l.*, upon receiving 200*l.* from the governors of Queen Anne's bounty. The stipend is 20*l.* per annum. The vicarage is valued in the king's book at 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* per annum, and is not discharged.



## W I D F O R D.

THIS parish adjoins on the south-south-west to Chelmsford, and was so called from the width of the ford there before there was a bridge built over the river. There is but one manor in the parish, called Widford. In the earliest times it was held by the Clovills of Hanningfield. William de Clovill had it in the reign of King John. His son held it in the 49th of Henry III., when he had leave to clear it of wood, and turn it into arable. It was next in Edmund of Woodstock, Earl of Kent, sixth son of Edward I., who was beheaded in 1329 for contriving the deliverance of the captive King Edward II. Edmund Bacon held the manor and advowson under that earl: he likewise held it under Roger de Mortimer, Earl of March, to whom the lordship was given upon Edward's forfeiture. In 1360 Robert de Ufford held it under the Earl of March; he was Earl of Suffolk. Margaret, wife of John Bacon, was possessed of two parts of the manor of Widford. The manor returned some time after into the Clovill family; for John Clovill, who died in the 5th of Henry VII., held it of the Ducheſs of York. It was, after this family, in Charles Altham, serjeant at law, who built the chapel adjoining, north to the church, in 1604. Sutton Altham, Esq., dying in 1630, the estate descended to his two sisters and coheireſſes, Elizabeth and Frances. One of them married to Charles



Tryon, son of Peter, grandson of Moyſes, of Haringworth, in Northamptonſhire. His ſon Charles ſold the eſtate to Thomas Inwin, Eſq., of Southwark, M. P. for that borough. He left his eſtate by will in 1743 to his widow, upon whoſe death in 1746 the eſtate, manor, and advowſon, came to Sarah, Counteſs Dowager of Suffolk, their ſole daughter and heirefs. She remarried Viſcount Falkland in 1752. There are about 800 acres of land in this pariſh. The late Chief Baron Comyns built a feat in this pariſh, named Highlands, which he left for life to his lady, and after her death to his nephew, John Comyns, Eſq.

The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and ſtands on the weſt ſide of the London road: it is a ſmall but ancient building, conſiſting of a nave and chancel of one pace; on the north ſide of the church is a chapel belonging to the lords of the manor. At the weſt end is a wooden turret. The Clovill family preſented to this rectory from 1410 to 1597. It is diſcharged, and valued in the king's books at 42*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.* per annum.

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### W R I T T L E.

THIS pariſh is juſtly eſteemed the fineſt and largeſt in the county: it is about 26 miles from London, to the weſt of Chelmsford. Here is ſuppoſed to be the ancient Roman ſtation, named Cæſaromagus, in Antoninus's Itinerary. Before a bridge was built over the river at Chelmsford, the public road from Braintree, and ſeveral other parts in the north and north-eaſt of the county, led through Writtle, turning at a corner where the ſign of the Red Cow now is, and going on to Beyford Tye, and quite through to Margaretting. Near the farm called Shakeſtons ſtood a very large inn, called the Swan.

This noble lordſhip belonged anciently to the crown; and in the Confefſor's time was part of the poſſeſſions of Earl Harold, who ſucceeded him on the throne. At his death it came to William the Conqueror, who at the time of the ſurvey held the greater part of this pariſh in demefne as the king's fee. The Biſhop of Hereford held another part, and Euſtace Earl of Boulogne held Newland-hall in Roxwell. The manor of Writtle was part of the Corpus Comitatus of Eſſex. Richard I. granted ſome franchises out of it to John Fitz-William and Walter de Hadfield, which lowered it conſiderably in value. But what thoſe franchises were is not known,



known. King John in 1211 built a house or palace here; the remains of which are supposed to be a quarter of a mile from the green, on the road leading to Chelmsford on the left. There are the ruins of an old seat, surrounded with a moat, and which contain about an acre of ground. Opposite to this is a farm, called the Lordship; and here the court-baron is held; but the court-leet is kept at Greenbury on Little Green upon Whit-Monday, on which is a place enclosed like a summer-house. The market-house stood near it, but is now pulled down. King John in the sixth year of his reign granted this manor, or part of it, in fee farm, and afterwards for life to Thomas de Nevill, with free warren. In the grant Thomas de Nevill is styled clerk, and the manor of Writtle is said to be some of the lands which were given to the Normans. Henry III. in the first year of his reign granted the town or manor of Writtle to Philip de Albene; and in the year following to William Longespée, Earl of Salisbury; and in the 14th of his reign he granted it to the Bishop of Chichester, Lord Chancellor of England, with a wood called Horfrith. This bishop was Ralph de Nevill, who built a town-house in Holborn to be a residence for the bishops of that see when they were in London, which, from a subsequent owner, Henry de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, took the name of Lincoln's Inn. The same king, about a year after, gave the manor of Writtle to Isabella de Bruys, sister of John Earl of Chester. Robert Bruce, Earl of Carrick, asserting his right to the crown of Scotland, and being crowned at Scone in 1306, he was deprived of all his estates in England by King Edward I. This manor then remained in the king's hands till Edward II. gave it to Humphrey de Bohun, High Constable of England, Earl of Hereford and Essex, and his heirs; in 1347 the house was fortified and embattled; in 1372 Humphrey, his descendant, died, leaving issue two daughters, Eleanor, married to Thomas of Woodstock, sixth son of Edward III., and Mary, to Henry Earl of Derby, afterwards Henry IV. of England. Thomas of Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester, had this manor in right of his wife, with other large estates. In 1397 he fell a sacrifice to his enemies and the weakness of Richard II. By his wife he had one son, Humphrey, who died young, and four daughters, Anne, Joan, Isabel, and Philippa; Anne was contracted whilst very young to Thomas Earl of Stafford, who dying in 1392, without having cohabited with her on account of her youth, she married his next brother, Edmund Earl of Stafford; he was killed in the battle of Shrewsbury in 1403, leaving Humphrey his son, then only two years of age; who was afterwards created Duke of Buckingham, and died in possession of the manor and estates of



Writtle, being killed at the battle of Northampton fighting for Henry VI. His grandson was the next heir, born in 1456; he was the chief instrument in placing the crown on the head of Richard III., but afterwards declaring against the usurper, lost his head, and forfeited his estates. Edward, his eldest son, obtained from Henry VII., in the 14th year of his reign, all his father's lands. But, equally unfortunate as his predecessors, he fell a sacrifice to the violence and ambition of Cardinal Wolsey, through whose intrigues he was beheaded on Tower-hill in 1521, when this manor and estates fell to the crown. In the crown it remained till the year 1553, when Queen Mary granted the manors of Writtle and Boytop, with two parks, that of Writtle and Horfrith, to Sir William Petre: John Petre was advanced to the dignity of a baron in 1603 by the title of Baron Petre of Writtle. There were formerly here two parks; one called the King's or Writtle park, lying towards Ingatestone; the other on the road from Cooksmill-green to High Ongar, which has been disparked a long time: it is called Ostley or Osterly park, but the ancient name was Horsfrith. Henry III. granted it to Ralph de Nevill, Bishop of Chichester, and it contained about 300 acres of land. The king had a wood or forest in this parish, which had a keeper. Within this manor is a remarkable custom called Leppe and Lasse; it is this: Every cart passing over a certain part of it named Greenbury, unless it be the cart of a nobleman, is to pay fourpence to the lord of the manor. It is supposed to have been anciently a market-place. Nine manors have been parcelled out from the noble manor of Writtle; that of Rolstons, Shakestons, Fidlers, Turges, Hafets, Morehall alias Stanfords, Bowers, Bedell's Hall, and Benedict Otes.

The manor of Rolstons derives its name from a family so called. The manor-house is very pleasantly situated on the right-hand side of the road leading from Writtle church to Blackmore, about half a mile from the church. Walter Thomas in 1583 held the estate of the queen as of her manor of Writtle, being then valued at 8*l.* per annum. It was afterwards in the Astley family. Sir Andrew Astley in 1633 died possessed of the estate. It was purchased of Antony Astley in 1653 by William Wiseman, whose heirs in 1685 sold it to John Adams, Esq., in whose family it continued.

The manor of Shakestons has a mansion-house, lying on the side of the road leading from Writtle church to Margaretting. William Bedell, who died in 1536, held this of Henry VIII. Sir Andrew Astley held it also of the Earl of Portland and

Peter



Peter Whetcomb, of their manor of Writtle, which they had in trust for Lord Petre. Sir Andrew lived at this house. From the Astley family it came to that of Browne, Rogers, and Plummer; the latter of whom sold it to Sir John Comyns, Knight, late lord chief baron of the exchequer.

The manor of Fidlers has a mansion-house standing about three miles from the church, a short way out of the road leading from Writtle church to Blackmore. There is a row of trees from the road to the house. The name of this place is derived from Fithelers, or Vithelers, a family here of very great antiquity. Nicolas de Fitheler lived here in the reign of Henry III. In 1356 Nicholas de la More released to Sir Hugh Badowin, Knight, and his wife, all his right to the manor of Writtle. It came next into the Joscelyn family. Sir Ralph Jolyn was Mayor of London in 1465 and 1476. It afterwards came into the Petre family, in which it has continued ever since.

The manor of Turges is a capital messuage, otherwise called Cassus, and stands north-west about a mile from the church: it is now called Sturgeons, and has been a seat of considerable antiquity. Ralph Neville, Bishop of Chichester and Chancellor of England, lived here. This manor was held by John Berners, Esq., of the ancient family which possessed the manor of Berners Roding in this county not long after the Conquest, under Henry Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, as belonging to his manor of Writtle. He was gentleman-usher to the Princess Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Edward IV., and afterwards sewer to Edward V., as appears from the epitaph on his monument in the church where he was buried. John, his descendant, sold this estate to the Pinchon family. Nicholas Pinchon, of Wales, was one of the Sheriffs of London in 1532. The estate continued in this family till after the year 1672, when it came to William Wolfe, of St. Andrew's, Holborn.

The manor of Hafets, in Queen Elizabeth's reign, was held by John Pinchon, Esq., of the manor of Writtle and Turges, and continued in his posterity till very lately. It came afterwards to William Wolfe, Esq.

The manor of Morehall, alias Stanfords, has a mansion-house standing in the road to Highwood, about a mile north-west of the church. In all probability it takes the name from its situation in a moor, or wet place. In 1359, in the 33d year of the reign of Edward III., Elizabeth, daughter of Sir William Scott, Knight, late wife of John, son of Sir William Delamore, let to Ralph Wooley, or Wolsey, the manor of Morehall during life, for forty marks a year; and her brother-in-law, Nicholas, released



released to Ralph and his heirs all his right in it. In 1367 this Nicholas granted the reversion and released all his right in the manor to John Aubrey. In the sixth of Henry IV. he released to William Crefwyth, John Darham, and others, all his rights, &c. In 1418 John Hende of Bradwell, near Coggeshall, held the manor in right of Elizabeth, his wife. In 1465 Sir Thomas Charleton held the manor; he was attainted for assisting King Richard III., and his estates taken from him in 1485. Soon after, Henry VII. granted the manor to Sir John Fortescue, Knight, and his heirs. But in 1510 John Bassett, Esq., descended from John Hende above mentioned, had special living of this manor from King Henry VIII. John Fortescue, however, in 1518, died possessed of it. Edmund in 1588 alienated it to William Carew, Esq. But two years afterwards Queen Elizabeth granted it to William Carew and John Fortescue. Thomas Carew had it, and sold it in 1592 to Christopher Sybthorp, Esq., and his heirs. Nicholas Wadham had it next, or his wife Dorothy, by purchase, and settled it on Wadham College, Oxford, in which it now remains.

The manor of Bowers, Burrowes, or Barrowes, lies on the side of Edney common, in that part of the parish named Highwood; and is held of the manor of Writtle, by the rent of 20s. per annum. In the reign of Charles I. it belonged to the Luckyn family. Richard Luckyn, Esq., was high sheriff for the county in 1636: by the marriage of Anne, his grand-daughter, with Sir Joseph Brand, it came into that family, as Joseph Brand, Esq., died without issue. Joseph Brand, son of Sir Joseph, sold it to Job Marple, clerk, vicar of Boreham in this county: he gave it to Thomas Cook, rector of Semer, in Suffolk, who had married his youngest daughter.

The manor of Bedell's-hall is one of the four hamlets belonging to Writtle parish. The mansion-house is seated on the right side of the road leading from Pleshey to Chicknal Smaley, not far from Dyveshall, and is about four miles or rather more from Writtle church: near it, at the meeting of three ways, formerly stood a cross, called Bedell's Cross. This manor is part of what was held at the time of the survey by Robert Gernon, lord of Stansted Montfichet. From his descendants it passed to the noble family of the De Veres, Earls of Oxford, as did Stansted; and by that means came to be held of them. William Le Bedell is mentioned in the inquisition of Henry III. Richard Bedell held this estate under John De Vere, Earl of Oxford, who died in 1360. The Earl of Oxford granted his wardship to John Bocket for 30l. He died in 1535; besides this, he held a messuage called the Lodge, a messuage



and lands called Shakestons, and a messuage called Howchers in Writtle, of the king of his manor of Writtle. In the reign of Elizabeth, William Bedell, Gent., held this estate. Of this family, born at Black Notley, was the famous and learned William Bedell, D.D., Bishop of Kilmore, in Ireland. Bedell's-hall was next in the possession of Christopher Glascock, clerk, master of Felstead school in this county for about forty years. The estate and manor was purchased of his son by Job Marple, clerk, vicar of Boreham, who gave it to his daughter Jane, wife of Thomas Wallace, M.D. : his grandson, Job Wallace, rector of Liston, and vicar of Messing in this county, had it next.

The manor of Benedict Otes took its name from Benedictus Otes, who held it formerly. The mansion-house stands on the right side of the road from Roxwell to Chelmsford, near Cooksmill-green, about three miles north-west from Writtle church. It anciently belonged to Mountney's chantry, founded in the church of Chelmsford by Sir John Mountney. Edward VI. granted this manor, after the dissolution of the chantries, to Sir John Perient and Thomas Reeve, with the appurtenances, in Writtle, belonging to Mountney's chantry in Chelmsford : but Sir John Cary, who died three years after, in 1552, was found to be possessed of the manor. From this family it passed to John Agmondesham, who died in 1598. Mary, wife of William Muscamp, of Godalming, in Surry, was his sister and heiress. It afterwards came to William Petre, Esq., of Mile-end, in Middlesex, a branch of Lord Petre's family, in which it now remains. There is a farm in this parish, called Beaumont Otes, in the road from Chicknal Smaley to Chelmsford, belonging to Lord Petre.

Thomas Hawkins gave a farm here, consisting of a messuage called Hooks, and 60 acres of land, to the poor who should inhabit the alms-houses in Writtle church-yard ; he also gave 30 acres of land, being a farm called Bumsteds, and some small tenements in Writtle, for the repair of the church. William Horne, grocer, of London, gave 5*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* per annum out of his estate in the Wrestler in Bishopsgate-street, London, to the poor of the parish : here are some other smaller donations.

The abbey lands of Beddeman's Berge. This was a hermitage, situated in the middle of a wood called Highwood Quarter, about four miles north-east of Writtle church. Part of the chapel is still standing. One Robert, a monk, in the time of King Stephen, was the founder of this hermitage. Some time after, Robert resigned all his right and interest in it to the abbot and monks of St. John's in Colchester, which Stephen confirmed. Henry II. ordained two monks priests to reside there constantly,

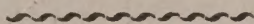


constantly, and appointed 4*d.* a day for their maintenance, and that they should have all manner of liberty, and firing in his forest, and pasture; and that they might have their men to gather nuts during the nut season. Besides these two priests, the abbey put in a guardian, or keeper. After the dissolution, the hermitage, then corruptly called Barrowes and Salmons, in Writtle, and described as comprehending a dove-house, orchards, gardens, and lands containing 50 acres, was granted in 1542 by Henry VIII. to Robert Tyrwhitt, Esq., and his heirs, who the same year sold it to Robert Lenthall. In 1544 Philip Lenthall alienated it to Sir William Petre, Knight. In his posterity it now continues.

The church of Writtle, dedicated to All Saints, is very large and stately. Both church and chancel have aisles belonging to them. At the west end is a lofty tower of stone, with battlements. It contains eight bells. The church is said to have been given by King Stephen in 1143 to the priory of Bermondsey, in Surry: but in 1203 King John gave it to the hospital of the church of St. Maria in Saxia, or the hospital of the Holy Ghost at Rome, belonging to the English, for the maintenance of the poor and infirm there; and Edward III. confirmed it to them. In pursuance of this grant a house was erected here, called the House of the Holy Ghost, governed by a prior, or warden, who held this church in free alms. At length this house was seized by the crown, as belonging to an alien hospital. William of Wyckham, Bishop of Winchester, having about that period, in 1399, founded New College, Oxford, he obtained this church, which the warden had leave from Richard II. to make over to that college. From that time the warden and fellows of the college have been, and still are, proprietors of the rectory, patrons of the vicarage or donative, and ordinaries; for it is a peculiar jurisdiction belonging to New College, in Oxford; and in all spiritual matters, is subject to such commissary as is constituted by the warden and fellows of that society; so that it is exempt from the visitation of a bishop. The rectory of this parish is a manor, and the court is kept at the parsonage-house, which is pleasantly situated on the south side of the churchyard: it is called the manor of Romans fee, or *Rectoria de Writtle*, alias Romans, on account of the rectory belonging to the hospital at Rome: there are still the remains of a water-mill, called Romans mill. This fee was probably what the Bishop of Hereford held in this parish at the time of the survey belonging to the church. Romans fee is one of the four hamlets or districts belonging to this parish; the other three are, Town-quarter, Highwood, and Bedell's-end. Formerly there were four chantries



chantries in this church ; one of the yearly value of 6*l.*, Sewel Bromfields, or our Lady's chantry, to which a chapel in the church-yard belonged, dedicated to the Virgin Mary : St. John the Baptist's chantry ; the former of these was valued at 15*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*, the latter at 9*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* : Carpenter's chantry, at 13*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.* In Edward VI.'s reign, at the time of the suppression, this was called a great and populous town, containing by estimation one thousand inhabitants and more.



## R O X W E L L.

THIS place derives its name, in all probability, from the number of wells and springs with which it abounds. It is not mentioned in Domesday-book. It lies about four miles north-west of Chelmsford, in the road leading from that town to Margaret Roding, and contains about 2000 acres of land. It is a chapelry or hamlet, and belonging to the parish of Writtle ; it does not appear even to have been a distinct parish or presentation. If it is a chapel of ease to Writtle, the inhabitants are not bound towards the repairs of the mother church, as appears from a deed, dated 1597, in possession of Thomas Bramston, Esq.

Here are several manors, but they are all within the manor of Writtle, which comprehends all the lands in Roxwell, of which those of Skrenes and Duke are not held but of the king in capite. The manors, or reputed manors, here are six ; that of Boyton-hall, of Skrenes, of Tye-hall, of Mountneys, of Dukes, and of Newland-hall.

The manor of Boyton-hall, in the reign of Edward I., is mentioned as a considerable thoroughfare ; it always went with that of Writtle as part of the ancient demesnes. Henry Duke of Buckingham died in 1546 seised of this manor, as well as of Writtle : they being forfeited to the crown upon the attainder of one of his successors in 1551, were granted by Queen Mary to Sir William Petre, Knight, and Anne his wife ; in whose posterity they now continue.

The mansion-house of the manor of Skrenes stands on the left side of the road going from Roxwell to Skellow, about a mile beyond Roxwell church. It was rebuilt in an elegant style some years since by its present possessor. The name is derived from a family of note, which was possessed formerly of this and many other estates in the county. William Skrene, of Writtle and of Clifford's Inn, was serjeant



at law in Henry IV.'s reign in 1409. The last of this family died in the reign of Edward IV. The manor and estates were after this released to William Lord Hastings. They came afterwards into the family of Farmer. Henry VIII. in 1544 granted these manors and estates, lately belonging to Richard Farmer, attainted of high treason, to Richard Sampford, yeoman. In this family it continued but a very short time, for William Sampford in 1546 sold the premises to Christopher Allen; and in 1554 Richard Sampford alienated them to Richard Weston, Esq., of a Staffordshire family, one of whose descendants was created Earl of Portland. Thomas Earl of Portland in 1635 sold it to Sir John Bramston, Knight, Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench; a family derived from William Bramston, Sheriff of London in 1594. It has ever since continued in that family. It is remarkable that the possessors of this estate have all been persons who have raised themselves to eminence in the law, a circumstance which has attended no other estate in this county.

The manor of Tye-hall has a mansion-house moated round, and stands at some distance from the road, on the left-hand between Roxwell church and Skrenes. It was formerly in the possession of a great family, named Heveningham, in Suffolk. In 1415 Thomas Heveningham held the manor of the earldom of Hereford. From Thomasia Heveningham the estate passed into the family of Thomas, who was her son and heir by her third husband. William Thomas bore the name of William Walter, Esq., of Roxwell: he held the estate in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. It came afterwards to Sir Jerome Weston and Sir Richard Earl of Portland; it is now in Thomas Bramston, Esq.

The manor of Mountneys, alias Rokefwell, is so called from an ancient family of this surname, who were owners of the manor of Mountneyfing. The mansion-house stands on the left side of the road leading from Boyton-cross to Margaret Roding, about half a mile from Newland-hall; it is large, and appears to have been a considerable seat. In the 28th of Edward I. John de Mountney held in Writtle 120 acres of land and 4 of meadow of Robert Lord Bruce. In Richard II.'s reign John Boreham, citizen and mercer of London, and others, demised to Robert Braybrooke, Bishop of London, Sir Gerard Braybrooke, and others, all their lands in Writtle, &c. In the reign of Henry VI. it was in the Skrene family and Alice Strange. From the Fermors, or Farmers, it passed to the Lukyns. John Bullock, Esq., of Falkburn-hall, in this county, now possesses it.

The manor of Dukes is a considerable farm, often called a manor; the mansion-house



house stands at the upper end of Roxwell-street, on the right side of the road leading from Roxwell church to Skrenes. It is not clearly ascertained whence the name of Dukes is taken, unless it be from some ancient dukes who had the lordship of Writtle. It was formerly in the family of Skrenes, and passed from them to other persons, of whom we find no account. John Crush, Gent., and his family, possessed it for several generations.

The manor of Newland-hall belonged to Harold King of England before the Conquest. At the time of the survey, Eustace Earl of Boulogne held the lordship by the name of Nevelanda. The mansion-house stands on the left-hand of the road leading from Boyton-cross to Margaret Roding, about a mile from Roxwell church. A family of note took their name from this manor. In the year 1210 and 1211 Ralph de Novalanda held two fees in Novalanda of the honour of Boulogne. Walter Newland, in the reign of Henry VI., released all his right here to William Taverner and Ellen Tironell; then Ellen gave up her right to William Taverner, son of Margery, one of the daughters and heiresses of John, son of Mauger de la Neulond, and his heirs. Walter died in Henry VI.'s reign, and then it came again to Thomas, brother of Richard Newland. The estate was next in the Birdfield, or Berefield, family. John Birdfield died about 1514 in possession of it. This manor and Margaretting, which he held, descended at his death to Margaret, wife of Robert Gedge, and Thomasina, wife of William Daniel, cousin and heiress of John Birdfield. Thomas Lightfoot alienated a moiety of it to Margaret Gedge in 1519, and the other half to Thomasine Gedge. In 1538 George Gifford had licence to alienate one half of it to Richard Hales, and in 1540 to Thomas Arundell. The estate, however, still remained in the Gedge family, for James Gedge held the manor in 1555. In 1565 Christopher Harris and Edward Elliot, Gent., alienated it to Richard Lee and William Loveday, most probably in trust for some use, as well as in the former alienations; for the estate was still in the Gedge family. Edward Elliot, who had it in 1595, was of Bishop Stortford, in Hertfordshire; he held the manor of the queen; from him, by purchase or otherwise, it came into the Thwaite family. William Thwaite was citizen and alderman of London. Of some of his posterity it was purchased by Richard How, Esq., of Stondon Massey. His son enjoyed it next, and left it to William Taylor, of Great Hadham, in Hertfordshire, in 1748, who afterwards took the name of William Taylor How. Within this chapelry a considerable family of the name of Young lived.



The church is a very small building of one pace, on the left side of the road leading to Skellow Bowels, about two miles from Writtle, and four from Chelmsford. At the west end is a wooden turret, in which are three bells.

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B R O M F I E L D.

THIS parish is situated very pleasantly in the road from London and Chelmsford to Braintree, Sudbury, &c. The soil near the road, and especially the place where the church stands, is very apt to produce broom, which unquestionably occasioned the name. In the Saxons' time this district was possessed by different persons. At the time of the survey, it was in Godfrey de Magnaville, Odo Bishop of Bayeux, and William of Warenne. There are four manors in the parish; Bromfield-hall, Patching-hall, Wood-hall, and Belstead-hall.

The manor of Bromfield-hall has a mansion-house, which stands near the church. At the time of the survey it was in Godfrey de Magnaville, who came in with William the Conqueror, and was by him rewarded with one hundred and eighteen lordships, forty of which were in Essex, and this among the rest. King Stephen created his grandson Earl of Essex. The Bohuns, Earls of Hereford and Essex, had it afterwards. In 1399 Thomas de Mandeville dying without issue, his estates were divided between his two sisters, Joan, wife of John Barry, Esq., and Alice, wife of Helmingius Legatt. Alice, for her share, had the manor of Bromfield, and others; she married Roger Spice, a second husband. This estate came into the Spices. Philippa Spice brought it to her husband, John Fortescue, Esq., in about 1500. We find it next in the family of Riche. Sir Richard Riche held it in 1566. It continued in them till Charles Riche, Earl of Warwick, dying in 1673, the estates were divided between the female heirs of Robert the second earl, and Robert the third earl, or their issues. This manor fell to Nicolas Earl of Scarfsdale, who sold it to Herman Olmius, merchant, of London.

The manors of Patching-hall and Wood-hall are put together, though sometimes mentioned distinctly. Patching-hall stands on the right side of the road leading from Bromfield church to Chelmsford; it is a brick house, and little more than a mile from the town. The manor extends into part of Chelmsford. Wood-hall is at a considerable distance from it, on the north-west side of the church, near the road
leading

leading from Chelmsford to Chicknal Smaley. In the time of the Saxons they were divided into three parcels, one held by Segar, but at the time of the survey by Odo Bishop of Bayeux; another by Edward, but at the time of the survey by Geoffrey de Mandeville; and the third by Borda, but at the survey by Robert Gernon, and under him by Picot, whence the appellation of Picot or Patching hall arose. Richard was named Fitz-Gilbert in the time of the survey, and held this manor. Roger de Mortimer, Earl of March, held a view of frankpledge here, and Edmund Earl of March in Henry VI.'s time. It continued a long time in the noble family of Bouchier. Robert Bouchier, Lord Chancellor in Edward III.'s time, held the manor of Wood-hall of the Bishop of London. Henry Bouchier, being killed by a fall from his horse in 1539, left an only daughter, Anne, who became the wife of William Lord Parre, afterwards Earl of Essex and Marquis of Northampton. In 1548 Sir Richard Riche had it of the Marquis. From this family it has passed to John Olmuis, Esq., with Bromfield-hall.

Belstead-hall stands in the parish towards the east and south-east, near New-hall park. Godric Poine was owner of it in the Saxons' time; and at the survey, William de Warenne. Very little mention of it is made in old records. John Fermer in 1354 held a moiety of Belstead-hall, in Bromfield, of William de Wauton, Knight. In 1558 John Wiseman, Esq., of Felstead, held it. George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, also possessed it at the time of his violent death in 1628. It was afterwards in General Monk, Duke of Albemarle, and his posterity, and has continued ever since in the owners of the New-hall estate; the chief part of which, with Belstead-hall, is in Richard Hoare, Esq., of Boreham.

A capital messuage, on the right-hand side of the road to Chelmsford between the road and parsonage, belonged formerly to Sewell. Sir Richard Everard, of Great Waltham, purchased it in the year 1716. George Lathbury, Gent., who married his youngest daughter, Anne, had it afterwards, and sold it to Mr. Hanbury, of Coggeshall.

Well-house, on the left side of the road to Chelmsford a little below the green of Bromfield, was formerly in ——— Bullen, then in Burr, and in ——— Marsh, who married Mary Burr, and whose daughter, Mary, left it from her relations to John Olmuis, Esq.

Butlers, on the same side of the road, is a little above Bromfield-green. In 1563 it was the estate of Mr. Pascal, who soon sold it to Wood. He in 1574 sold it to Mr.

Mr. Prow, and Prow in 1605 to Frith, who, not long after, passed it to Sir John Tryon, whose son sold it to Robert Vincent: his grand-daughter, Elizabeth, widow of John Everley, Gent., sold it to George Mertins, afterwards knighted, and Lord Mayor of London. Of him it was purchased by Daniel Scratton, Gent.

Priors, an estate in the south-west part of the parish, lies about half a mile from the church. It originally belonged to the priory of Blackmore, which occasioned its name. Henry VIII. granted it to Waltham-abbey in exchange for other lands. Upon the suppression the king granted it in 1554 to Richard Roger and Robert Taverner. In the January following, William Garrard had licence to alienate Priors and a wood called Bromfield-grove to William Eyre and others. In 1562 William Eyre passed it away to Thomas Wallenger. From him in 1582 it went to Edward Elliott, and from Elliott to Manwood. It continued in this family till Thomas Manwood, dying without issue, left this and his other estates to Thomas Pocklington, attorney at law.

Scravels is another estate in this parish near Priors, formerly belonging to the Borsey family, and afterwards to Mr. Daniel Harrington.

Sixteen acres of land, which were formerly given for some other purpose, are now applied to the repairs and ornaments of the church, with another acre elsewhere. There are a few other donations.

The church stands on a green by the road side, and is of one pace with the chancel, with a little vestry at the north-west corner. At the west end is a round tower of brick and stone, containing three bells; on the top of which is a spire shingled. These round towers are supposed to have been built by the Danes, or according to their manner of architecture. This church, with the lands, tithes, and appurtenances, were given by Walter de Mandeville to the church of the Holy Trinity in London, and the canons there, and confirmed to that monastery by Henry III. in 1226. In 1293 this church was appropriated to that house by Richard de Gravesend, Bishop of London, who then ordained a vicarage here, reserving to himself and successors the nomination of the vicars, whom the prior and convent were to present. Thus it continued till the suppression, when about the year 1541 the whole patronage and right of this vicarage was granted to the Bishop of London and his successors, and has continued in their collation ever since. In 1289 the value of the church was found to be about thirty marks per annum; besides nine acres of tithe; another acre, and the hay or first crop of two acres in Northrude, belonging to Bromfield-hall;

hall ; besides many other tithes, and a custom which the vicar was obliged to adhere to of strewing the church twice with rushes in summer, as the owners of the rectory were to do three times in winter with straw. The impropriate tithes continued in the priory till the suppression ; upon which they were granted by Henry VIII. in 1546, with the parsonage, to William Harris, being at that time held by John Courtman. From Harris they passed to Richard Lord Riche, who made them part of the endowment of his free-school and alms-house at Felfstead. There is paid out of Bromfield to the school 68*l.* 6*s.* 11*d.* per annum, and to the alms-house 18 bushels of wheat, and 29 of malt.

The parsonage-house, glebe, and great tithes, are held by lease of Lord Riche, whose representative is the Earl of Winchilsea. Of the lessees was one John Attwood, Esq., of Gray's Inn, who married Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Patrick Young, Esq., a very learned man, librarian to Charles I. Other lessees, or inhabitants of this parsonage, have been Edward Rigby, Esq., Dr. Stewart, John Hill, and Richard Price, Esqrs. It has been much improved by the two last, especially by the latter, who has made it a comfortable gentleman's seat. Some part of the house was built by the Devereux family ; their arms are cut in stone over the chimney. Edward Finch, Esq., was an inhabitant afterwards ; he is brother to the Earl of Winchilsea. Thomas Cox, M. A., vicar of this church, was a man of considerable learning ; he held the vicarage from 1685 to 1734. His works, which are various, prove his extensive and well-cultivated mind. The vicarage is discharged, and is valued in the king's books at 45*l.* per annum.

C H I C K N A L.

ON the north-west of Bromfield are the two contiguous parishes, distinguished from other each by the appellations of Chicknal St. Mary and St. James, and Chicknal Smaley. Chicken-hall appears to be the right name, as it is variously written ; and this proves its derivation. In Domesday-book it is written Cingehela.

Chicknal St. Mary and St. James took its name from the saints to which the two churches were dedicated, which formerly stood in it. It is also called Great or Magna Chicknal, and Chicknal Zoyne and Tany, from two ancient owners. Though these parishes are small, yet in the time of the Saxons they were divided into eleven different

different parts. When the survey was made, Geoffrey de Mandeville was lord paramount. In this parish are now reckoned two manors; Chiggenhall, and Hawes or Hittots.

The mansion-house of Chiggenhall St. Mary and St. James is rather large, and stands about half a mile north-west of the church. In the earliest times on record it was in the family of Tany, who were barons of the realm. Richard de Tani was sheriff of Essex and Hertfordshire in 1260. Margaret, sister and heiress of Laurence de Tani, married John de Drokensford, who died in 1341. About this time the estate was held by the Nevills under Drokensford. John de Neville, Earl of Essex, held both advowsons and manors. Lady Alice Neville held the manors of Chiggenhall Tany and Chiggenhall Zoyn of Alberic De Vere, Earl of Oxford, and Sir John Howard, Knight, till her death, which did not happen till 1395. The reversion of these estates was in William de Bohun, Earl of Northampton, and his issue; but he dying without issue, they descended to his two grand-daughters, his heiresses; Eleanor, wife of Thomas Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester; and Mary, wife of Henry Earl of Derby, afterwards Henry IV. Upon the division of the great estates of this noble family, this fell to Eleanor; but her mother enjoyed it during her life, for she presented three times to the living. Anne, daughter of Eleanor, was the person in whom all the honours and estates centred; she had three husbands, Thomas Earl of Stafford, who died without issue; her second husband was his brother, slain at Shrewsbury in 1403; her third husband was William Bourchier, Earl of Eu, who died in 1420. She presented five times to the living. Sir John Bourchier, her younger son, had these manors: his grandson dying without issue, the manors reverted to the Stafford family; and in 1521 they fell to the crown, when the Duke of Buckingham was beheaded. In 1522 Henry VIII. granted the manor and advowson to Christopher Rochester and Henry his son for life; the same king afterwards granted the manor and advowson to Ambrose Barker, Knight, who presented three times to the living. He died in 1560. Thomas, his son, in 1563 alienated them to Sir William Petre, Knight, and others. In this family it still continues. There is a farm which goes with the manor, and is called Bretons.

The manor of Hawes, alias Hittots, was so named from two owners. The house stands about a mile from the church, on the left hand of the road to Chelmsford. Little mention of this occurs in ancient records. In the 24th of Edward I. Joan de Briançon granted to John de Hotot this estate in Chiggenhall Zoyn, consisting of

1 messuage, 80 acres of land, 4 of meadow, 12 of pasture, and 6 of wood; 10s. of rent, and a pound of cummin. John Wood, who died in 1529, held this manor of the king; William Peacock had it in 1638. It came afterwards to Edward Herbert, rector of Cranham and North Okendon, in this county. This manor is called Great Hawes; a house opposite to it, with a brick barn, is called Little Hawes. There are only eighteen houses in this parish, and a few charitable donations.

The church is of one pace with the chancel; at the west end is a spire shingled, and three bells. Formerly here were two churches; one belonging to Chicknal Tany, the other to Chicknal Zoyn, one dedicated to St. Mary, the other to St. James. The former appears to be that which is taken down; for there is a field of the glebe called St. Mary's croft, in which a parcel of land, about the size of a church-yard, is enclosed with a bank and deep ditches on all sides, except the west; and some ruins of a building have been taken up by the plough: brick and stones are still remaining about the premises. The advowson of the rectory was appendant to the manor, till severed from it by Joseph Petre, Esq., who sold it with the advowson of the parish of Malmesbury, to — Stock, Gent., of Great Hallingbury. His son enjoyed it till his death in 1745, when he left it by will to Mrs. Carter, his niece, who brought it in marriage to John Shrigley, M. A., late incumbent of the parish. The living in the king's books is valued at 10*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.* yearly.

CHICKNAL SMALEY.

THIS parish was called Smaley from an owner, and also sometimes Trenchford, and Brick Chicknal, because the church is built of brick; Chicknal Parva is another name for it. In it are two manors, that of Chicknal Smaley, alias Trenchfoyle, alias Dyves-hall, and the manor of Beremans.

The manor of Dyves-hall has a mansion-house, standing about a quarter of a mile south-east from the church, partly surrounded by a moat; and was a large edifice, chiefly built by the Lukyn family; but some of it has been lately taken down. In the reign of Henry II. John de Trenchfuill held four knights fees here under Geffrey de Mandeville, Earl of Essex, who was lord paramount of both manors. This manor was in the earliest times after that in a family of Dyves, which

gave it the name; and under them it was held by the Bottetourts and other families. In the 4th of Edward I. Ida Bottetourt held a court at Chickenhal Trenchfoyle. Hugh, son of Otto, who died in Edward I.'s reign, held the manor of Robert Dyve by the rent of one clove gillyflower. The prior of Dunmow held a tenement in Plechedowne of the same manor. William Orrell held the eighth part of a fee of the same manor. Sir John Philibert presented to the living in 1331. He held the manor. In 1333 John de Illeghe held a court here; as did Sir John de Litton the next year: Walter Blount also in 1357. Thomas Blount presented in 1394. Alice de Neville and John de Neville held at the same time two fees in the parish. Hitherto the manors of this parish appear to have been in one; but about the year 1400 we find traces of two, the owners of which presented either jointly, separately, or alternately, to the rectory. In 1429 the manor of Dyves-hall was in John Glascock, and continued in his family till 1559. It next came into the Lukyn family; it continued in them till 1668, when the estate descended to his first cousin, Joseph Brand, Esq. Sarah, widow of this Joseph, was jointured in the estate, and possessed it till her decease in 1729. Joseph Brand sold the reversion to Job Marple, M.A., vicar of Boreham, a native of Derbyshire. Mr. Marple left this estate to his grand-daughter, Sarah, daughter of Thomas Cook, married to the Rev. Mr. Child: they have left issue.

The manor of Beremans is so called from John Beremans, who was a tenant of it, though not an owner. It was originally part of the manor of Trenchfoyle, and was severed from it, with the advowson of the church, about the beginning of the fifteenth century, when it came into the families of the name of Armenter and Rolf, who presented several times to the living. The name of Rolf is very common in these parts, and they have held the farm for many years. In Elizabeth's time it came into the Porter family. In 1620 Abraham Porter sold this estate to James Chaplin, who in 1626 sold it again to William Haselfoot, Gent. After the restoration it was purchased by Thomas Singleton, Gent., schoolmaster, in Hogfden-square, near London, who presented to the rectory in 1666, and either he or his son again in 1677. Timothy Brand bought it of the son; he was succeeded by his son in 1734, Thomas Brand, Esq. There are about three hundred acres of land in the parish, and only eighteen houses.

The church is very small; at the west end is a tower embattled, with only one bell. They are both built of brick. The advowson has been appendant to the
manor

manor of Dyves-hall and Beremans, the owners of which have presented jointly, but of late alternately. Chicknal Smaley rectory is valued at 41*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.* in the king's books, and is discharged.

DUNMOW HUNDRED.

THE hundred of Dunmow is of a long and narrow shape, being twenty miles in length, and not more than eight in breadth, in the broadest part of it. It is bounded on the north by the hundred of Freshwell and Uttesford; on the east, by part of the hundreds of Chelmsford, Freshwell, and Hinchford; on the west, by part of Uttesford, Harlow, and Ongar; which last bounds is on the south. It derives its name from Dunmow, which is the chief town in it, and within the arch-deaconry of Middlesex. The hundred is in the disposal of the sheriff of Essex at the time being.

In this hundred are twenty-six parishes; those which belong to the circle which is the subject of our consideration, are Pleshy, High Easter, Good Easter, Mashbury, High Roding, Eythorp, White, Morell, Leaden, Margaret, Berners, Skellow Bowels, Willingale Don, Willingale Spain. The name of Dunmow seems to be formed from the two Saxon words, which signify dun, a hill; and mow, a heap, implying a raised way, as it stands upon the old causeway, or Roman road, which leads from Bishop's Stortford to Colchester. There is also a Saxon word, which signifies to mow, given on account of the fertility of the hill: others have derived it from two Celtic words, dunum, a gravelly soil; and magus, a town, as they imagined that here was the ancient Cæsaromagus. This is, however, confuted by the Itinerary, as Cæsaromagus was situated about Writtle or Chelmsford.

The town stands upon a hill, and in a fertile and pleasant country, about thirty-seven miles from London; but as it lies out of the plan proposed in this work, we must proceed to those parishes which are within the circumference.

P L E S H Y.

PLESHY is now only an obscure village, though a very considerable township formerly: for from the earliest times to the year 1400, it was the seat of the high

constables of England. It appears to have been a considerable place long before the Conquest; and even in the Roman times was a villa or fortress: there is still a ditch or entrenchment which encompasses the north, west, and east parts of the present village, that is, all that is north of the road, and having the remains of another corresponding on the south side. It begins in a field across the road north of the church. On the same side of the way, in a field about a quarter of a mile from the church in the road leading to High Easter, was found a fine glass urn, with some bones burnt in it, which Samuel Tufnell, Esq., laid before the Society of Antiquaries. The name of Pleshy is generally derived from the French word *plaisir*, pleasure, as the place is pleasantly situated on high ground, with a very good prospect, especially towards the south; and is watered with a brook to the north, and a rill to the south, sufficient to supply any canals with water. It was formerly rendered agreeable by the buildings, fortifications, and parks, which adorned it. Camden says, that William de Magnaville, or Mandeville, was the founder of the castle here; but it was undoubtedly of a much more ancient date. Of this castle nothing remains at present but the outwork, fortified or surrounded with a double moat. The outer part, called the Castle-yard, contains about two acres of ground, and was the site of the castle, from whence, by a brick bridge of one arch, very lofty, is a passage over a deep moat to the keep, which is a high artificial mount of earth, of an oval form, 45 paces in length, and 25 over in the width. In the Confessor's reign a freeman possessed it; and at the time of the survey, Eustace Earl of Boulogne had it. Maud, grand-daughter of Eustace, having married King Stephen, by that means Pleshy became vested in the crown, with the rest of Eustace's rich possessions. When King Stephen created Geoffrey de Mandeville Earl of Essex, he conferred upon him the castle and manor of Pleshy; but that earl ungratefully forsaking him, he was imprisoned by the king, and obliged, in order to obtain his liberty, to give up the tower of London, of which he was had the custody, and likewise his own castles of Waleden and Pleshy. But Henry II. restored them to his son. In 1190 William de Magnaville dying without issue, was succeeded by Beatrice de Say, grand-daughter of his aunt, who had married William de Say. Beatrice, this heiress, was married to Geoffrey Fitz-Piers, of Ludgershall castle, in Wiltshire, Chief Justice of England, who in her right was made Earl of Essex, and his sons took the name of Mandeville. William, one of them, dying in 1227, entailed all his lands with the earldom upon his sister Maud, wife of Henry de Bohun, Earl of Hereford. It continued in this family till Humphrey, dying

dying in 1372, left only two daughters, Eleanor and Mary, coheiresses. Eleanor married Thomas of Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester, so often mentioned before; and with her he came into possession of the castle and manor of Pleshy among others. The Duke of Gloucester was uncle to the reigning king, Richard II., a man of much valour, probity, and virtue; he had of course great weight in all matters of public business. But having imperiously treated his uncle, and entangled the affairs of government, the king resolved to put him out of the way. For that purpose he came to him to Pleshy one evening in the summer, and required his uncle to accompany him to London that night. When arrived near Stratford-le-Bow, the king riding off, a party which lay in ambuscade with Thomas Mowbray, earl marshal, seized the duke, and hurried him to the water-side, where a ship was ready, which conveyed him to Calais. There he was kept prisoner till September 1397, when he was stifled between two feather-beds; and being in the following parliament declared a traitor, all his lands and possessions were forfeited to the king. However, his widow Eleanor, at the time of her death in 1399, enjoyed the castle and manor of Pleshy, with most of the estates that had belonged to her ancestors, with the office of high constable of England. On a partition of the estates of Humphrey de Bohun, the last Earl of Essex, in 1421, between Henry V., son of Mary, youngest daughter of Thomas of Woodstock, and Anne Countess of Stafford, this castle and manor, with the park, then valued at 106*l.* 8*s.*, fell to the king's share; from which time they were united to the duchy of Lancaster. In 1547 Edward VI. granted to Sir John Gate the manor of Pleshy and the parks. Upon his attainder in 1553, on account of his embracing the cause of Lady Jane Gray, all his estates fell to the crown, and in it this manor remained. The great park, which, in the reign of Edward I. in 1320, was enlarged and enclosed with 150 acres of land by Humphrey Earl of Hereford and Essex, came by purchase or otherwise to Richard Lord Riche, who had it at the time of his death in 1566, and it became incorporated with the demesnes of Waltham Bury, and has passed with them to the present owner. The little park of Pleshy, with a messuage belonging to it in Pleshy and Great Waltham, was purchased by Sir Robert Clarke, one of the barons of the exchequer, who held it in fee farm of the honour of Mandeville, and died possessed of it in 1607, and of other estates in this parish. Robert Clarke, or his father, who died in 1629, built the house here, called the Lodge; and as the old materials were undoubtedly employed about it, it is not to be wondered at that there now appear no remains of them: a few foundations only were

were discovered some time ago in planting trees. The heirs and successors of Robert Clarke remained possessed of the lodge and estate here, of the site of the castle and college, and of the tithes of the parish, till Robert Clarke, Esq., of Rifehams, joining with his mother, sold them in 1720 to Sir William Jolliffe, Knight, who died in 1750, and was buried in the church. He left his estate here, being unmarried, to his nephew, Samuel Tufnell, Esq., of Langleys, in Great Waltham.

Pleshy Bury is another estate in this parish, the mansion-house of which lies near a mile west from the church towards High Easter. It was probably part, or the whole of High Easter park. It holds a court, and now belongs to the Tylney heiress.

A college was founded here about the year 1393 by Thomas of Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester, for nine chaplains. It was dedicated to the Holy Trinity. He set aside six acres of ground, with which he built the college on the south side of the present church, and endowed his foundation with nine more acres of land in the parish, with the manor of Berneston, in this county; that of Wells, in Hertfordshire; those of Bokingfield and Whitstable, in Kent; and the advowson of the church of Whitstable; and power to appropriate the churches of Whitstable and Bokingfield to their own use; the whole being valued at 104*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* per annum. The manor of South Fambridge was afterwards added to it by Sir John Cobham, Sir John Harleston, and others, in 1395. The collegiate church was in the form of a cross, and from that time became a parish church, the original church being thus transferred, which stood on the opposite side of the road. There had been a rectory before, which patronage Geoffrey de Mandeville had given to his abbey of Walden, and they had presented till 1389. Isabel, the Duke of Gloucester's daughter, had given 20*l.* per annum for twenty years to the priests to celebrate mass for her. Humphrey Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, who was killed at the battle of Northampton in 1460, was buried here with his wife and children, of whom John Earl of Wiltshire gave one hundred marks by will to purchase lands for the augmentation of the number, with three priests and six poor men. He also appointed a chapel to be built and hallowed to the worship of the Holy Trinity and our Lady on the north side of the church. Anne, his widow, settled forty marks. Sir Henry Stafford gave 160*l.* to buy land for a priest for ever. Edward Earl of Wiltshire founded a chantry here of 13*l.* 4*s.* yearly rent; with which sum lands were purchased, and endowed to the college of that value. The college was valued, at the
time

time of the suppression, at 143*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.* in the whole, and 139*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.* clear yearly value. The patronage of it was in the Staffords Dukes of Buckingham. Henry VIII. in 1546 granted to John Gate, Esq., one of the gentlemen of his privy chamber, the whole college of Pleshy, and the house and site of that college; and the rectory and church of Pleshy, and all the manors of South Fambridge and Barnston, with appurtenances belonging to the college; and the advowson of the vicarage of the church of Pleshy; with the manor and parsonage of Whitstable, and the manor of Bokingsfield in Kent, and Wells in Hertfordshire. This man, who was of a covetous disposition, pulled down the chancel for the sake of making money of the materials. Upon his arraignment and condemnation in 1553 they came again to the crown. Queen Elizabeth in 1564 granted the site and appurtenances to William Poole and Edmund Downing; and in 1589 made a fresh grant of them to William Tippen and Robert Dawe, of whom they were purchased by Sir Robert Clarke. In 1560 the queen granted a part of the tithes to the dean and chapter of Westminster, who have ever since leased them out, and last to Sir William Jolliffe; all the other tithes, both great and small, have gone with the college, and are now in the possession of John Jolliffe Tuffnell, Esq. Ever since the building of the college, and the appropriation of the tithes, and profits of the parish to it, the master had the curacy of it, and performed all the parochial duties. After the dissolution the church became a donative, or perpetual curacy, in the disposal of the owner of the site of the college, with a stipend of 8*l.* per annum: but it was in 1721 augmented with 200*l.* by Lady Moyer, one of the sisters of Sir William Jolliffe; and in 1728 with 300*l.* more by her daughter and executrix, Mrs. Jennings. The parish is rated to the land-tax at 413*l.* 10*s.*

The church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, or the Holy Trinity, was large, and in the form of a cross, with the tower in the middle. The church soon fell into decay after the desertion of the family of the high constables, and the destruction of the college, the inhabitants not being able to keep up the repairs, till by the munificence of one of the bishops a neat small church was built of brick about the year 1708. The tower still remained ruinous, and there was no chancel till the late Samuel Tuffnell, Esq., built a handsome chancel, and under it a vault for his family. He also new cast the five bells, repaired the top of the tower, and erected a monument for Sir William Jolliffe.

HIGH EASTER.

THIS parish is situated on high ground, and lies west-north-west of Pleshy. The name of Easter is probably taken from a street to the east, or from its situation with regard to Roding. High Easter belonged, before the Conquest, to the abbey of Ely; but Esgar, constable of the army in the Confessor's reign, seized it, and they could not regain it without granting him a life estate in it: he was, however, thrown into prison by order of the Conqueror, where he ended his days. Esgar being thus dispossessed, Easter was given to Geoffrey de Mandeville, and was not restored to Ely abbey, because the Conqueror's enemies had there found refuge and protection. In this parish are the following manors: High Easter, Hayrons, Mannocks or Belhouse, Powers, Garnets and Marks, and the manor of Berwick, partly in this parish and partly in Roding Abbess. The rectory or parsonage is also a manor.

The manor-house is called High Easter Bury, and joins the west end of the church-yard. Beatrice de Say had it after the Mandeville family; she brought it to her husband Geoffrey Fitz-Piers in her right Earl of Essex. Maud brought it to Henry de Bohun, Earl of Hereford, and Lord High Constable of England. In 1371 Eleanor, wife of Thomas of Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester, had it; and after their death it came to Anne, one of their daughters and coheiresses, married to Edmund Earl of Stafford, who died possessed of it in 1403: after that it came, as did Pleshy, to King Henry V., who annexed it to his duchy of Lancaster. Richard III., to engage Henry Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, to his party, made him a grant of it, and the rest of the Bohun estates, in 1483; but his enjoyment of it was very short; and it reverted to the crown as part of the duchy of Lancaster. In 1629 King Charles I. sold the site of the manor, that is, High Easter Bury farm, to the city of London for money, which that city had lent him: it was then valued at 10*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.* per annum, which at 28 years purchase made 284*l.* 18*s.*: the rent reserved was 10*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* per annum. The farm belonged lately to the Rev. Mr. Master, rector of Woodford, valued at about 100*l.* per annum; of whose son, the Rev. Mr. Master, it has been purchased by John Jolliffe Tuffnell, Esq. A court leet, for the honour of Mandeville and Tutbury, is kept here yearly on the Tuesday after Michaelmas day. The payments to this court are according to the number and quantity of knights fees after death only. But to the honour of Clare, fines are paid after alienation as well as death in this manor.

The manor of Hayrons has a mansion-house, about a mile and a half south from the church on the left hand of the road leading to Good Easter. It is old and moated round, and appears to have taken the name from Ralph de Hayron, who, with William de Pincerna, held half a fee of Geoffrey de Mandeville in the reign of Henry II. John Gedge in 1556 held the manor of Hayrons of the queen as of her dutchy of Lancaster; three daughters were his heiresses. William Glasscock in 1632 held the manor of the king. It has ever since continued in that family.

The manor of Mannocks is so called from a family as early as the reign of Edward IV., who were in possession of it: it consisted in that reign of two manors, called Belhouse, or Bellowes, and Powers. The mansion-house is about a mile and more from the church east-north-east, and a quarter of a mile on the right hand out of the road leading to Dunmow. John Mannock held two manors here of the Dukes of Buckingham. Sir Francis Mannock sold it, and it has ever since belonged to the family of Brand.

The manor of Garnets and Merks, the mansion-house of which is two miles north-east from the church, on the right hand of the road to Dunmow near Bishop's Green. This manor had its name from the two ancient families of Garnet and Merks. About 1165 Geoffrey Garnet held one knight's fee here under Geoffrey de Mandeville, Earl of Essex. It was afterwards in the Gate family; Thomas Gate, Esq., had it in the reign of Edward III. Sir John Gate was condemned and beheaded in 1553 for espousing the cause of Lady Jane Gray, upon which all his estates fell to the crown. In 1558 Queen Mary granted the manor of Garnets and Merks, with others, to Richard Weston, Esq., and Margaret his wife. In 1561 Richard Weston alienated Garnets and Merks to Kenelm Throgmorton and John Pairott. In 1563 Throgmorton sold it to William Fytche, Esq. This manor was lately in the family of Dyer of Dunmow. Sir Swyn Neston's executors sold it in 1740 to Sir Brownlow Sherrard; but that purchase not being completed, they were both brought to John Henniker, Esq.

The manor of Berwick is partly in this parish. Sir Ralph Berners held it in the time of Edward I. under Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Essex. In the reign of Edward VI. it was in the crown, for that king in 1547 gave it, with appurtenances, to Sir John Gate by way of exchange; it was then valued at 13*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* It was afterwards in the Capel family. There is in this parish a hamlet, commonly called Pantlo or Pentlow End, about a mile northward from the church towards

High Roding. In 1301, under Humphrey de Bohun, Gilbert de Stanford held one fee in the parish. There are other estates here. The parish is rated to the land-tax at 2152*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.*, and is very extensive.

The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and is very large and lofty, consisting of a body and north aisle, the upper end of which is called Garnet's chancel, because it was the burial-place of the family; the chancel is of one pace, but has a good vestry on the north side. At the west end is a high tower, containing five bells, and on the top is a spire, small, but leaded, with a bell. At the two corners of the chancel are several bricks, which seem to be Roman; they are at least of that form and size. The church was given by Geoffrey de Mandeville to his foundation of Walden-abbey, and the donation confirmed by King Stephen and Henry II. The rectory and great tithes were from time immemorial appropriated to that monastery, and a vicarage ordained and endowed, of which the abbot and convent were patrons till their suppression. After the general dissolution, the rectory impropriate, which is a manor, was granted by Henry VIII. to Thomas Lord Audley in 1538. But King Edward VI. in 1547 settled it, by way of exchange, on the dean and chapter of St. Paul, with the advowson of the vicarage, of which they have ever since continued patrons. The rectory is held under them by lease; lately by the Glasscock family, of Fernham and Brises; then by Robert Chester, Esq., who forfeiting it to the South-Sea Company, it was purchased by Sir William Jolliffe. The manor-house of the rectory is about half a mile north-east from the church. The vicarage is valued in the king's books at 14*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.*, and is not discharged.

GOOD EASTER.

THIS parish lies south of the former. The name of Good, which distinguishes it from the other, was given to it since the Conquest. In the Confessor's reign it was held by a king's thane. Earl Eustace gave it to the collegiate church of St. Martin-le-grand in London, founded about the year 700 by Withred king of Kent, but rebuilt and endowed chiefly by two Saxon noblemen, Ingelric, and Edward or Girard, his brother, about the year 1056. That foundation was confirmed by William the Conqueror in 1068. The name of this place, besides Good Estre, is written in records, Godicestra and Godichester. This parish was anciently called the Prebend

bend of Good Easter, and the parish church a prebendal church, because wholly appropriated to the college of St. Martin. Four prebendaries of it had their endowments in this parish, named Paslows, Imbers, Fawkeners, and Bowers; and to each of them a house belonged here. Fawkeners is on the south side of the church. Imbers stands opposite to it on the right hand. Bowers and Paslows are both down; the former stood behind the vicarage-house, and the latter below it, being a large building moated round. These four were reckoned distinct manors, and afterwards divided into others, named Newark, or Newlands fee, and Wares. Peter de Cufance held to farm in the reign of Edward I. or II. two carucates of land here under two of the prebendaries that were aliens: he was dishonest enough to sell great part of that land to John Pointon and his heirs; for which the dean and chapter of St. Martin were forced to prefer a petition to the king and council. Henry VI. confirmed to the college of St. Martin-le-grand this estate of Easter. Henry VII. gave this parish in 1492, with the collegiate church of St. Martin-le-grand, and the sanctuary belonging to it, to the monastery of St. Peter, Westminster, where it continued till the suppression. It was exempt from the jurisdiction of the bishop or archdeacon till Edward VI. brought it under the government of the Bishop of London. Westminster-abbey being dissolved in 1539, and all its possessions being vested in the crown, Henry VIII. made this in 1540 part of his possessions of his newly-erected bishopric of Westminster; after the suppression of which he granted in 1542 the manor and hereditaments called Newark in Good Easter, formerly belonging to St. Peter's, Westminster, with the tithes, &c., and Newlands fee in Good Easter, with the prebends and capital messuages of Paslows, Imbers, Fawkeners, and Bowers, the rectory of Good Easter, and advowson of the vicarage, to Sir Richard Riche and heirs. Two years after, the king granted him the yearly tenth or reserved rent to the crown of 6*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.* out of the manor of Newark, and other lands in Good Easter, &c., parcels of the possessions of the said monastery and other religious houses, amounting to the sum of 69*l.* 4*s.* 1*d.* per annum, for the sum of 1100*l.* He died possessed of them in 1566. Robert Riche sold them in 1620 to Sir Henry Mildmay, of Graces, with all his possessions in Good Easter, except the advowson of the vicarage and spiritual jurisdiction. His grand-daughter, Elizabeth Waterfon, sold them some years ago to James Bonnel, Esq.

The manor of Newark or Newlands fee has a mansion-house lying in a bottom, about a mile and a half south-east from the church by the side of the road leading to

Roxwell. A court is kept there. It was purchased of Richard Lord Riche by Sir Robert Clarke, baron of the exchequer, who made it his place of residence. He died in 1606 possessed of it, of Pleshy lodge and other estates, particularly in this parish. It was after that, in — Harrison, Esq.

The manor of Wares has a large house, moated round, in a bottom, by the side of the road leading from Good Easter to Mashbury. It was held of the collegiate church of St. Martin. Alice Strange, who died in 1459, held the manor of Wares of the dean of St. Martin's: John Skrene, her grandson, was her next heir. He died in 1474. James Gedge, Esq., of Newland-hall in Roxwell, held this manor of Wares of the queen, as of her dutchy of Lancaster; and at the time of his death, in 1555, he left three daughters coheiresses. Sir Samuel Thwayt, Knight, of Newland-hall, in Roxwell, who died in 1636, had this manor, and many others, and the tithes of several fields. Those tithes after that were in the possession of Mrs. Thwayt, and partly in the heirs of Mr. John Sandford; but the manor belongs to John Nash, Gent., of London. There are also other estates in the parish. The parish is rated to the land-tax at 1181/. 2s.

The church is dedicated to St. Andrew, and consists of a body leaved, and a south aisle: in the church are several cells and arches of stone cut in the wall. The tower of stone at bottom, and of timber above that, with a shingled spire, contains five bells. After the suppression of the college of St. Martin's-le-grand, which had this church, with the advowson of the vicarage, and all the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of it, the nomination of the vicarage came to the Riche family, and continued in them till the death of Charles Earl of Warwick, being reserved in the sale of Sir Robert Clarke. Since the death of the Earl of Warwick it has passed through several hands. In 1711 William Arnold presented to the living: in 1744, Mary Harrison, and also in 1745 and 1746: in 1762, John Yeldham, Esq. The vicarage is discharged, and is valued in the king's books at 40/.

M A S H B U R Y.

THIS parish lies south-east of Good Easter. The word Bury commonly signifies a capital mansion; and the first syllable of the name of this parish is taken from one Macy, whose fee is here mentioned in an old deed, as it were Macy's bury. Aluena,
a free

a free woman, held it in the Confessor's reign; but it had been moated by Geoffrey de Mandeville, though William the Conqueror gave it to Ulric: part of it was a berewic, or hamlet, to Good Easter, and lay in Chelmsford hundred. It continued in the Mandeville family till by the failure of male issue it came to Fitz-Piers; and by Mand, daughter of Fitz-Piers, Earl of Essex, was brought in marriage to Henry de Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Essex. Humphrey, Earl of Hereford and Essex, who died in 1372, held two fees here, that were before held here by William Botteveleyn. His two daughters and coheireffes, Eleanor, married to Thomas of Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester, and Mary to Henry Plantagenet, Earl of Derby, afterwards King Henry IV., shared his large estates; in the partition of which, made in 1421 between Henry V. and Anne Countess of Stafford, this manor and appurtenances, then valued at 13*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.*, fell to the king's share, and was by him annexed to the dutchy of Lancaster. It appears to have been generally part of the dowers of the Queens of England. Margaret, Queen of Henry VI., presented to the church, which was appendant to the manor in 1448; as did also Elizabeth, consort of Edward IV., in 1471 and 1491; and Anne Boleyn in 1535. In 1509 Henry VIII. granted it to his first Queen Catharine of Arragon in part of her jointure. In 1544 Henry VIII. granted this manor, with appurtenances, and the advowson, to Geoffrey Lukyn and his heirs. In 1554 William Lukyn alienated the manor and rectory of the church, and the manor of Matching, to Sir William Petre. His posterity have enjoyed it ever since.

Mashbury-hall stands on the south side of the church, and is the most considerable estate in the parish. There are two other estates here. This small parish is rated to the land-tax at 361*l.* 8*d.*

The church is of one pace with the chancel. At the west end is a steeple, with a spire shingled, containing three bells. The rectory has been always appendant to the manor till lately. The rectory is valued in the king's books at 9*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.*, and is not discharged.

HIGH RODING.

THE name of Roding is either derived from the river Rodon, which runs through these parishes, or from two Saxon words, which signify a cross, a rood, and a meadow or pasture, from some noted crosses about this place. There were formerly

nine places of this name; but now there are only eight; that of Morrels being united to White Roding. The eight Rodings are, High, Aythorp, White, Leaden, Margaret, Berners, Abbess, and Beauchamp. The six first are in this hundred of Dunmow: and the two last in the hundred of Ongar, which have already been described.

High Roding was so called, either because it stood higher up the river, or upon higher ground than the others. It is also called Great Roding, being formerly considered as the chief. High and Aythorp Roding belonged before the Conquest to the monastery of Ely. But the monks having incurred the Conqueror's displeasure, for sheltering some English who would not submit to his yoke, he stripped them of many lordships, and this among the rest, which he gave to William de Warenne, who was related to William the Conqueror, and accompanied him in his expedition to England, and was rewarded by him with 21 lordships in this county, 139 in Norfolk, and many others elsewhere. He was made Earl of Surry by William Rufus, and died in 1088. It continued in this family till John died in 1347, and who was succeeded by his sister, wife of Edmund Fitz-Alan, Earl of Arundel; beheaded in 1326. Thomas Earl of Arundel dying in 1414 without surviving issue, his estates were divided among his sisters, coheiresses, Elizabeth Duchess of Norfolk, and, at his death, wife of Sir Gerard Ufflet; Joanna de Beauchamp, Lady Abergavenny; and Margaret, wife of Sir Rowland Lenthall. Elizabeth had the third part of two parts of this manor, and the advowson of the church. Margaret and her husband, Sir Rowland, the same. Their son dying without issue, his share came to the heirs of the other two sisters, John Duke of Norfolk and George Nevill. Thomas Boteler, Earl of Ormond, was possessed of it in 1477. His daughter married Sir William Boleyn, grandfather of Anne Boleyn, Queen of England. Sir William in 1541 alienated the manor to William Nevill; but in 1554 sold it by licence to Sir Thomas Josselyn, who died in 1562. This family is of very great antiquity, there being 24 successive generations in their pedigree. In this family it still remains. High Roding Hall, or Bury, stands near the church. Newhall Josselyn, or Davies Hall, is near a mile west from the church. It appears to have been built by some of the family in the beginning of the seventeenth century as a place of residence. It was a large house, with a court and chapel, but much decayed.

Bowells, a capital messuage in this parish, stands not far from Aythorp Roding church. Matthew Barnard, who died in 1603, held a small estate here, called the
manor

manor and farm of Potters and Millers. Thomas Aylett, his grandson, was his next heir. George Joffelyn, Esq., of Sawbridgeworth, and his son John, of High Roding, gave six milch cows for ever; the profit of two of them for the repairs of the church, the other four for an obit for themselves and ancestors. James Chopping in 1616 gave some small benefactions. A school-house in the street was endowed by Sir Strange Joffelyn and his brother Edward, rector here, for teaching poor children.

The church is dedicated to All Saints; it is pleasantly situated, but is a small building, of one pace with the chancel. It has a little wooden turret, with a shingled spire, and contains three bells. This rectory was given by some of the noble family of Warrenne to the priory of Lewes, in Suffex, which was their foundation. It continued in their disposal till the suppression of monasteries; when coming to the crown, it was given by Henry VIII. to Thomas Lord Cromwell. Upon his attainder it reverted to the crown, and was passed with the manor to the Joffelyn family, in whose gift it has remained ever since. There is no trace of any parsonage to be found here. This may be attributed to the monastery of Lewes, who robbed the living under form of a pension, and probably employed some monk to perform the duty of the church. The rectory of High Roding is not discharged, and is valued in the king's books at 20*l.* per annum.

RODING AYTHORP.

THIS parish derived its name from an owner, called Aythorp, before the reign of Edward I.; it is also written Roinges Grumbalds. It stands south of High Roding. Before the Conquest it belonged to Leofwin, a nobleman who, to atone for the murder of his mother, gave the lands here to the abbey of Ely. They were taken from it by William the Conqueror on account of their harbouring his enemies; and William de Warrenne had a part of it at the time of the survey. Samar, a freeman, held a part in the Confessor's reign, which Eudo Dapifer and his tenant had afterwards. Besides the manor of Aythorp Roding Hall, of which the mansion stands at the west end of the church, there are two other manors in the parish, namely, Keers and Friars Grange.

The manor of Aythorp Roding Hall appears to have been part of the endowment

of the bishopric of Ely ; for Nigel, the second bishop of that see, granted it to Alberic De Vere, Earl of Oxford. In 1165 Simon de Roinges held two fees here of the Bishop of Ely ; but Alberic had the service of them ; and in 1221 the Earl of Oxford held four fees of the bishop. Robert and William Roothing possessed them in the reign of Henry III. This manor appeared afterwards in a succession of five generations, surname De Aythorp ; but they seem to have been under the Earls of Oxford. Edward I. and Eleanor his wife gave to Guido de Ferre and Margery his wife this manor, which belonged formerly to Robert de Roothing, and which he leased and surrendered. Guido de Ferre presented to the living in 1322. In 1310 he had licence to impark his wood of Aythorp Roding ; and at the time of his death held this manor and advowson of the church of the Earl of Oxford in capite by knight's service. In 1337 Sir Thomas Weston, brother of Sir Humphrey Weston, of Prestedhall, had this estate. A fine was levied between him and his wife and Richard de Tywerhele of this manor and advowson. Margaret, their daughter and heiress, brought this estate to her husband, John de Lovain, of Little Easton. Eleanor, one of her daughters and coheiresses, brought this estate from her sister, who gave it to her, to her husband Sir William Bouchier. The part which lay in this parish consisted of two knights fees, which Henry Lord Viscount Bouchier held of the castle of Hengham in the reign of Henry VI. It continued in that family till it came to Anne, daughter of Henry Bouchier, the last Earl of Essex of that line, and wife of William Marquis of Northampton. His marchioness enjoyed it till her death, though he forfeited it for asserting the right of Lady Jane Grey. She died in 1570. In November 1570 Queen Elizabeth made a grant of this, among other estates, to Walter Devereux, Viscount Hereford and Earl of Essex, who was next heir to the Marchioness of Northampton. Thomas Aylett, who died in 1607, held this manor and the advowson of the church. This estate was spent in the service of King Charles I. In 1670 the manor and advowson were in Richard Luther, Esq., who then presented to the living. Since that time it was purchased by one of the family of Barrington, of Hadfield Broad Oak.

The manor of Keers may have been detached formerly from the manor of Aythorp, or probably was one of those held under Geoffrey de Mandeville. The mansion-house stands about a mile south-east from the church. The first mention of it is, that Thomas Aylett held it, in James I.'s time, of Peter Palmer, Esq. In Charles I.'s time, John Eve had it by the name of Caros. In 1661 Sir John Barrington

rington purchased with 600*l.* left by John Gobert, Esq., and settled it upon charitable uses. The manor is in the Barrington family, and a court is kept there.

The manor of Friar's Grange was so called, because it belonged to Tiltey priory. The house is about a mile and half south-east from the church. Thomas Eve farmed it of Tiltey priory. Henry VIII. granted it after the suppression to Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, who sold it in 1538 to Robert Trappes. It afterwards belonged to a family of the name of Stokes, who lived here for some generations. One of them alienated it to Edward Dey, a ship-carpenter, who sold it to Jacob Houblon, Esq., of Great Hallingbury, in whose family it remains. Colne priory had also some lands here. The parish is rated to the land-tax at 722*l.* 1*s.*

The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary; it is small, of one pace with the chancel. A wooden turret, with a spire shingled, contains three bells. This rectory was a long time appendant to the chief manor, but has been separated from it for several years. Eudo Dapifer gave the whole tithes of this parish to his abbey at Colchester; and Alberic De Vere gave to his priory of Earl's Colne the tithes of his demesne here, and the church, with its appurtenances. Hugh, son of Geoffrey de Mandeville, took the church from the monks, but afterwards restored it, and gave four acres of land to expiate his sacrilege; this grant, however, did not take effect, for the church continued a rectory ever after. The rectory, which is not discharged, is valued in the king's books at 12*l.* per annum.

WHITE RODING.

AS many churches were white when new, this probably gave rise to the name of this parish, particularly as there is no soil here white, from which it could be taken. A freeman held part of the parish in Edward the Confessor's reign; but William the Conqueror had it afterwards as a portion of his royal demesnes. Some of it was held by Roger de Otburville; and after him the name of no other lord is to be found here till the reign of Henry III. The chief lordship here is promiscuously called the manor of White Roding and Merks from an ancient owner. The other manor here is Maskelsbury.

White Roding Bury stands not far from the church. But the house, called Merks, is about a mile north of it. In 1226 Walter de Merc held lands in

Blanche Roing, worth 10*l.* per annum, by the serjeantcy of keeping the king's falcons. Sir Walter de Merc held in Roing one hundred and eighty acres of arable, &c., and the advowson of the church. Isabella, daughter of William de Bynayns, had in 1268 the grant of a market and fair in this parish. In 1296 Edward I. granted to John de Merks in tail the manor of White Roding and the advowson of the church, with remainder to Cecily Hastings, his sister. She was married to Humphrey de Hastings, and held this manor, among others, at the time of her death, in 1304. Mary, wife of John Merks, held it for her life; she died in 1329. In the mean time Peter de Cufance held the manor and advowson for the life of Mary, wife of Stephen Howell. He died in 1317. Sir William Cufance presented to the living in 1322 and 1329. Thomas Longevill, at the time of his death in 1346, held jointly with his wife this manor and advowson by the service of keeping two falcons for the king's use. His widow, Beatrice, remarried Sir William de Queneton, and appears to have brought to him this estate. Sir William died in 1374, his wife in 1387. Sir Henry Greene was her heir by virtue of a fine levied: he was second son of Sir Henry Greene, of Grenes Norton, in Northamptonshire; upon Ralph, his son, and Catharine, his wife, this estate was settled. Catharine, after his death, presented three times to the living. The estate then went to Henry, son of John, and grandson of Sir Henry Greene, who had a daughter married to John Stafford, third son of the Duke of Buckingham, created Earl of Wiltshire, to whom she brought this estate, and he presented to the living in 1469. In this family it proceeded no farther; for it came to Humphrey Browne, serjeant at law, in right of Anne, his wife, one of the daughters of Sir Henry Vere, of Addington, who was son of Isabella Greene. He alienated the manor of Merks and advowson of the church. In 1633 John Browne, Esq., sold it to Sir Richard Everard. John Le Neve bought it about the year 1686. His son sold it in 1717 to Robert Sumner, Esq., merchant of London. It now belongs to his heirs.

Colville, now called Covert's Hall, went for some time with the manor of White Roding. John Browne, Esq., held it by the name of White Roding, alias Brown's manor, of the Marquis of Northampton. The Everard family had it after them; and then it came to Mrs. Prisca Coburne, who, by will in 1701, left it to the relief of seamen's widows of the parish of Stepney; to which purpose it is now applied. It was about 110*l.* per annum. The house stood about three quarters of a mile north-west of the church. It was large, but the greater part of it is now pulled down.

The mansion-house of the manor of Maskelsbury stands about half a mile south-east of the church, and is moated round. This seems to have been originally part of what was the manor of White Roding. The present name does not occur before the reign of Edward III. The estate was once probably in the family of St. Paul. In 1291 Henry de Broke held here one messuage, the rent of 250 acres of arable, &c. : he died in 1314, at which time he held more land. It was afterwards in Bartholomew de Freftling, who alienated it to John de Pickenham, junior, of whom it was purchased by Sir John Hende, citizen and clothworker of London, and others. This was about 1370. John Hende, Esq., died in 1461 : his daughter and heiress brought it in marriage to Walter Writtle, Esq. John Writtle dying in 1507, it came into the Belknapp family. In 1521 Sir Edward Belknapp dying, his heiresses were three sisters ; it was divided among them ; it then came to Sir Edward Wootton in 1544, who alienated two parts of this manor to Antony Cooke, Esq. He was tutor to Edward VI., and had the estate at the time of his death in 1576. It next came into the Cotton family. Philip Cotton, Esq., held it in 1607. Sir John Poyntz, son and heir of Sir John Morris, of Chipping Ongar, who married Catharine, daughter and heiress of Gabriel Poyntz, Esq., of North Okendon, and assumed the name of Poyntz, had this estate at the time of his death in 1618. Sir Robert Abdy, grandfather of the late Sir Robert, one of the representatives in parliament for this county, bought it, and it has ever since continued in his family. This rectory is not discharged, and is valued in the king's books at 26*l.* per annum.

RODING MORELL.

THIS name is derived from an owner, called Morell. It was formerly a distinct parish, but is now annexed to, and a hamlet in White Roding ; but the inhabitants do their suit and service to the leet belonging to the hundred of Harlow. In the Confeffor's reign, Wisgar and his tenant held it. At the survey, it was held by Richard Fitz-Gillebert, ancestor to the Earls of Clare. It was afterwards in the noble family of Stafford, Earls of Stafford. Thomas died in 1392. It continued in the Staffords till 1548. The manor received the name of Cames, or Kemys Hall, from an owner probably of the great family of Camoys. In 1507 Andrew Prior held it of the Duke

of Buckingham. In 1546 John Prest, Esq., held it. From the time of Charles I. this estate has been in the family of Luther. Richard Luther, Esq., who died in 1638, held the manor, and it descended to the present owner of the same family.

There are but four farms in this hamlet of Morell, namely, Comes-hall, Walkers, Prow's Farm, and Philpots; they are all small, but Comes-hall is the largest.

The small church or chapel belonging to this place was a framed timber building. It is now converted into a pigeon-house, and stands near Comes-hall. The parish is rated to the land-tax at 848*l.* 3*s.*

The church of White Roding is dedicated to St. Martin, and is a fair building; it may be seen from a great distance round it, and exceeds in height of situation all the other Rodings. It is of one pace with the chancel. A square tower at the west end, with a lofty leaded spire, contains five bells. The rectory has been always appendant to the manor of White Roding, till it was alienated from it by the Browne family. There are about four acres and an half of land appropriated to this church. Sir Charles Leventhorp was about sixty-three years rector of the parish: he died in 1680. In 1760 Margaretta Maria Weller, widow, presented to the living; before her, in 1720, Margaret Maryon; and in 1762, John Jones and Margaretta Maria, his wife.

LEADEN, OR PLUMBEA RODING.

THIS parish appears to have taken its name on account of the church having been leaded before the rest: it stands eastward of White Roding. In the Confessor's reign a free woman held it; at the time of the survey it was held by William de Warene and his tenant. This was part of the thirteen knight's fees which Earl Warene held in Roings 1211. There is but one manor in the parish. The mansion-house stands a short way north-east of the church. John Earl of Warene granted this manor, among others, to Edward Fitz-Alan, Earl of Arundel, and Edward II. confirmed it to him in fee in 1314; from which time it became vested in the Arundel family. It was held of the Earl of Arundel by Sir Hugh Blount, who died in 1361. It was next in the family of Doreward in 1392. This family disposed of the estate to some of the Waldegrave family, for William Waldegrave in 1538 held the manor. Julian

Waldegrave,

Waldegrave, in obedience to a precept from the sheriff, delivered to John Sherecroft this manor and appurtenances; but it soon returned to the Waldegrave family. In 1637 Hugh Everard held it. It was afterwards in Timothy Brand, Esq., of the Hide in Ingatestone, in whose family it continues. There are some other small estates here. The parish is rated to the land-tax at 489*l*.

The church is small, of one pace with the chancel, and both are of equal breadth. At the west end is a wooden frame, with a spire shingled, containing three bells. The rectory was given by William de Warenne, afterwards Earl of Surry, to the priory of Castleacre, in Norfolk, founded by him in 1085. The advowson remained in that monastery till the suppression, when it came to the crown, where it has ever since continued. The rectory is valued in the king's books at 12*l*. 13*s*. 4*d*. per annum, and is not discharged.

MARGARET RODING.

THIS parish is so called from St. Margaret; to which saint this church is dedicated. It stands south of Leaden Roding. This is supposed to have been some of the lands in Roding given by Leofwin to the monastery of Ely, as above mentioned, under Aythorp Roding. Ansgar and a freeman held this parish in Edward the Confessor's reign. At the time of the survey it was held by Geoffrey de Mandeville, William de Warenne, and their under-tenants. Here are two manors, that of Roding Margaret and Garnetts, and the manor of Marks.

The manor of Roding Margaret and Garnett's-hall has a mansion-house standing at the east end of the church. It is called Olives and Garnetts from some of its ancient owners, and vulgarly called Garnish-hall. The noble family of De Vere, Earls of Oxford, held this very early as part of two knight's fees, which they had in the parish. Henry Garnett, the under-tenant, from whom it took the name of Garnett's-hall, presented to the living in 1329 and 1332. In 1268 Robert de Rootinge held under them these two fees of the fee of the Bishop of Ely; John de la Lee in 1350; John de la Lee and Robert Darsham in 1360 and 1371. William de Bohun, Earl of Northampton, and William Olive, held them in 1360; John de Bampton in 1371. The reversion of the manor of Roding Garnett, in which John de Botiller had a life estate, was in Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Essex, in 1372.

It appears to have continued longest in the family of Legh. Thomas Legh had it in 1390. Giles Legh inherited it, and died in 1538; during which time it had passed through this family alone. He left two daughters, married to two brothers; Margaret and Agnes, married to John and Christopher Alleyn. Between them this estate was divided in 1539. Christopher and Agnes both died on the same day, the first of February 1554. In 1672 Giles Alleyn, Esq., of Hafely, sold the manor and estate to John Godebold, Esq., of Tenting-hall. It was then about 140*l.* per annum.

The manor of Marks, or Marca's Fee, seems to have taken its name from Marcellus, who had it at the time of the survey, or from the family of Merk or Mark above mentioned. The house stands about half a mile south from the church, partly moated round, and is a good brick building. The manor appears to have been originally a distinct parish, or at least a chapelry independent of the church, and belonged to Standon Marci. It pays tithes to the rector of Standon. It had formerly a chapel of its own, standing where the barn now is, or near it, but it is now demolished. In the London registry the institutions are recorded. King Henry IV. and Walter Skirlaw, Bishop of London, settled this manor, with appurtenances, in 1403, on University College, Oxford, which has remained possessed of it ever since. In 1371 Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford, Essex, and Northampton, passed this manor to Simon, Bishop of London, and Richard Fitz-Alan, Earl of Arundel and Surry, Guy Brian, and others. In 1387 Guy Brian passed it to Thomas Arundel, Bishop of Ely, and to Richard Waldegrave and others. In 1403 Thomas Archbishop of Canterbury, and Richard Waldegrave, the trustees surviving, passed it over to the king; and in 1403 Joan de Bohun, Countess of Hereford, and Richard Waldegrave, quitted their claim to the manor. Henry IV. made it over to the college; Bishop Skirlaw purchased it, and though the king's name was used through form, yet he was the real benefactor. This was done to avoid the inquisition which usually precedes all mortmains, and that the manor might be held of the king. The estate was not more than 200*l.* per annum. There are other estates in this parish. It is computed that there are about 900 acres of land here. The parish is rated to the land-tax at 555*l.*

The church and chancel are of one pace, both tiled. A wooden turret, with a shingled spire, contains four bells. The western door has a neat arch indented, supported by wreathed pillars. The rectory has been always appendant on the manor

of Roding Margaret, or Garnett's-hall. The abbey and convent of St. Alban's had a portion of tithes in this parish, which were compounded afterwards for a pension of 46s. 8d., payable out of Marks. The rectory is valued in the king's books at 10l. 12s. 6d., and is not discharged.

RODING BERNERS,

COMMONLY called Bernish Roding, took its name from Hugh de Berners, who, at the time of the survey, held it under Geoffrey de Mandeville, with some others. It lies in the most southern point of the Rodings in this hundred. It belonged to Ulric in the Confessor's reign. There is only one manor here, called Berners-hall. The mansion-house is moated round, and stands a short way from the church. The Berners family held this estate for some time under the descendants of Geoffrey de Mandeville. Ralph Berners held this and others under Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Essex, and, in Edward I.'s reign, enclosed 60 acres of land here within the bounds of the forest of Essex for the purpose of enlarging his park. Sir James Berners was one of King Richard II.'s evil advisers, and being imprisoned on that account, was executed as a traitor in 1388. His estates being confiscated to the crown, Thomas Archbishop of York, and other feoffees, purchased this manor and estate for the use of Thomas of Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester. That duke, at the time of his death, held it of Joan Countess of Hereford, as of the honour of Mandeville. Of his feoffees it was purchased for the sum of 400l. by Richard Torrell, of Little Thorrock. Thomas Torrell, his son, held it at the time of his death in 1442 of the king. John, his son, had it in 1444, when Sir John Bouchier, Lord Berners, and Margery, his wife, impleaded him for it. But in 1542 a final agreement was made at Westminster-hall between both parties, by which John Bouchier, with his wife, gave up right and claim to the estate upon receiving fifty marks of silver. In Queen Elizabeth's reign it was in the family of Mordaunt. Philip Mordaunt, who died in 1569, held this manor and appurtenances of the queen of her dutchy of Lancaster. Lestrange Mordaunt succeeding to the estates in 1604, sold them to Sir Arthur Capel and Sir Edward Capel. It was afterwards in the possession of James Thwayts, Esq. George Barker, surgeon, was the next possessor; and it was lately in Mrs. Judith Thwayts and Mrs. Hanchet, of Chipping

Chipping Ongar. Roding Berners-hall was then worth above 200*l.* per annum. Asfeldens is a farm held with Torrell's-hall. The parish is rated to the land-tax at 354*l.*

The church is a small building near the hall ; a mean wooden turret contains only one bell. The church was given to the monastery of St. Leonard, Bromley, near Bow, in Middlesex ; the prioress and convent of which procured the whole tithes to be appropriated to their use, the cure being supplied by such a curate as they thought proper to provide, whom they hired at a small stipend. It was so at the time of the suppression, and it has ever since continued a curacy or donative. Henry VIII. granted the rectory and tithes in 1540 to Sir Ralph Sadleir, who in 1542 alienated them to Stephen Sumpford. They were for some time in the Mordaunts, lords of this manor. But John Waylett, who died in 1587, held this rectory, with the tithes and advowson of the church. His son Robert, at the time of his decease, held a moiety of this impropriate rectory, &c., in 1599. It remained in William and Averius Waylett till 1611, who both possessed a moiety. The whole was afterwards in Capel. About the beginning of the last century John Meade, perfumer in London, had a moiety of it, which he sold to James Ramshaw, Gent., of Little Waltham. The other moiety being in two hands, Mr. Ramshaw bought one part of John Turnidge, of Roxwell, and his father purchased the other part of Richard Lake, of Langdon Hills. About the year 1731 Mr. Ramshaw sold the whole to Mrs. Jennings, daughter of Lady Moyer.

SHELLOW BOWELLS.

THE name of Shellow appears to be formed of two Saxon words, which signify a hedgehog and a hillock. The other name has been given to it by way of distinguishing it from the Shelley near Ongar, and taken from some family. It lies next to the south of Roding Berners, and was formerly much larger than it is now. It was then called Scelga, and comprehended three considerable manors, held by Eudo Dapifer and Geoffrey de Mandeville ; and in the Confessor's reign had belonged to Harold and others. Part of it then adjoined to Rodings, the manor of Eudo Dapifer ; and was most probably curtailed by some of the Torrell family, who annexed a great part of it to their adjoining manor of Torrell's-hall. At present there

is but one manor in the parish, and the mansion-house lies a short way south-west of the church. At the earliest period it belonged to the family of De Boels; and soon after Sir John Sutton appears to have possessed it; and he gave it to the family of Joscelyn, of Sawbridgeworth, from whence it received one of its other names, that of Shellow Joscelyn; for in 1301 Ralph Joscelyn held one fee and a half. After the year 1338 it came into the Torrell family, which was originally seated at Torrell's-hall, in Little Thurrock, where they were of great antiquity. Richard Torrell, at the time of his decease in 1404, held two parts of the manor of Shellow, with the reversion of the third part of the manor of Shellow Joscelyn, of John de Bohun, Earl of Hereford. John Joscelyn in 1525 held the manor and advowson of the church. The Samford family presented to the living in 1545 to 1585, and therefore probably possessed the estate; but this is not clearly ascertained; persons of the name of Champneys were patrons from 1331 to 1405; Kent, from 1426 to 1453; Clyffe and Brittel, from 1457 to 1523; and yet none of these appear to have been possessed of the manor during that time. In the seventeenth century it was in the Wiseman family of Torrell's-hall, in the adjoining parish of Willingale Dou. After that it belonged to — Foster and to John Ange, Esq., who married his widow; then to Richard Marth, Esq., of Enfield, and his son Thomas, who sold it to Thomas Bramston, Esq., of Skrenes.

The priory of Blackmore had lands here, called Capel, given them by Thomas, son of John Joscelyn. This small parish is rated at 216*l.* 1*s.* to the land-tax.

The church is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul; but being fallen into decay, was rebuilt by a brief in 1752. The rectory seldom went along with the manor, but was in various patrons. The living in the king's book is not discharged, and is valued at 36*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*

WILLINGALE DOU, OR WILLINGHALL.

TWO parishes of the name of Willingale terminate the southern extremity of this hundred, distinguished from each other by the names of Willingale Dou, and Willingale Spain, from the ancient owners. The name may probably be derived from the Saxon words woollen and hall, denoting the plenty of wool which here abounded. At the time of the survey they appear to have been but one parish, the lands being held

here by Sweyn of Effex and his tenants. In the Confessor's reign these lands were held by six freemen.

Willinghall Dou is the largest of the two parishes, so called from the ancient family of D'Ou, or D'Eu, and Rokele, from a family of that name. There are in it two manors, that of Willinghall D'Ou, and Torrell's-hall.

Warden's-hall, the mansion-house of the first manor, is about half a mile south-west of the church. The name is supposed to be corrupted from Wanton's, because William de Wanton, who died in 1347, held jointly with his wife the manor of Willinghall of Maurice de Brune, by the service of a knight's fee. It does not plainly appear who were the possessors of the estate from the Conqueror's time to that of William de Wanton; but it may be reasonably inferred to have belonged to William D'Ou in the reign of Stephen, and afterwards to a family surnamed De Rochelle, or Rokele; then to Bruyn, and others. Sir Thomas Torrell presented to the living from 1445 to nearly the end of the century, and most probably had the manor. This manor was, before it came into the hands of — Wiseman, in Mr. Bedle's possession; then in Mr. Sampford's; then in Mr. Wiseman's, senior; and after that in Mr. Fytche. In the reign of Elizabeth, in 1587, Thomas Fytche and Agnes, his wife, sold this manor, with the advowson of the church, to Nicholas Bocket, of Sawbridgeworth, and Joanne, his wife, with entail to their sons. The purchase was 1800*l*. John Bocket conveyed the premises to Geoffrey Nightingale, of Newport-pond in this county, and they jointly made them over in 1634 to Robert Cole, Esq., who died in 1652. In 1733 Robert Cole, Esq., one of his descendants, dying, bequeathed this estate to his sister's son, Sir John Salter, Knight, Alderman of London, and Lord Mayor in 1740. He rebuilt the manor-house of Warden's-hall, and much improved the roads about it. He was also a benefactor to the churches of Willinghall, having built large and spacious galleries in them both, with other decorations. He died in 1744, and left this estate to his wife for life, and then to his only daughter and heiress, Selina, married to William Millès, Esq.

The manor of Torrell's-hall appears to have been taken out of Waertons, the capital manor of Willinghall. The mansion-house stands about a mile north-east of the church. The Torrell family were both here and at Shellow at the same time, but first at Shellow. In all probability they built here, and removed hither from thence. In 1404 Richard Torrell possessed it; and it continued in that family till the death of Humphrey Torrell in 1544, who left Anne, his daughter, then only

two years old, possessed of the estate. She was afterwards married to Henry Joffelyn, Esq. He died in 1587, and she in 1589. During her widowhood she held this manor and others. Torrell Joscelyn, Esq., sold this estate to Richard Wiseman, Esq. He was, as his epitaph says, a successful merchant, and refused the mayoralty of London. He died in 1618, possessed of considerable estates here. In 1688 the sister of Sir Richard Wiseman, Knight, sold the estate to John Brocket, Esq., of the Middle Temple. His son in 1719 sold it to Charles Blunt, merchant, of London. Some years since it was purchased by James Rooke, Esq. Here is a farm, called Asfelden's, of about 40*l.* per annum, the house of which stands in Roding Berners; it is supposed generally to be a corruption of Astelins, a small manor in the parish, which has usually been conveyed with Torrell's-hall. There are some other estates in the parish, which is said to contain 1400 acres of land, and is rated at 439*l.* 1*s.*, and Torrell's-hall hamlet at 259*l.* 1*s.*, to the land-tax. In this hamlet are three district constables; one for the township; one for Torrell's-hall hamlet; a third for the hamlet of Bird's-green, part of which is in Roding Beauchamp.

The church is dedicated to St. Christopher, and consists of a body and chancel. At the west end is a square tower embattled, containing four bells. The rectory is appendant to the manor of Willingale Dou, or Wardon's-hall. The churches of these two Willinghalls stand in the same church-yard; the reason of which is not known. There are some rare instances of this kind, particularly St. Edmund's Bury in Suffolk, Sopham in Cambridgeshire, and at Trimnel in Norfolk. The rectory is not discharged, and is valued in the king's books at 16*l.* per annum.

WILLINGALE SPAIN.

THIS parish derives its name from the ancient family of Spain, or De Hispania, who had Spain's-hall in Great Yeldham and Finchingfield, and who lived at the time of the survey. There are two manors in the parish, Willinghall Spain's-hall, and that of Mynchens.

Willinghall Spain's-hall stands a short way south-east of the church. In the reign of the Confessor, Edeva possessed this manor; but at the time of the survey it was held by Alan Fergent and his under-tenant, Harvey de Hispania, by the name of Ulingehala. It was one of the three knight's fees which Alan the Savage gave to Alberic De

Vere; from which it came to the Earls of Oxford. In the reign of Edward I. William de Montchenfy held this manor of the Earl of Oxford. Thomas de Grey held one fee in Willingale under John De Vere, Earl of Oxford, who died in 1358. Roger Fitz-Andrew held two quarters of a knight's fee here under Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Essex, who died in 1372. But the capital manor of Willingale Spain was held at the time by the Spice family. Thomas Spice held it under the Earl of Oxford, and died in 1370; Philippa Spice, his daughter and heiress, afterwards married to John Fortescue, Esq., who by her became possessed of Falkborn-hall and this manor, with others. It does not appear how this estate went out of the Fortescue family, but it was next in Joan Bradbury, a person who is not clearly known; but she appears to have been a sister of Humphrey Spice. She first married Thomas Bodley: her second husband was Thomas Bradbury, Lord Mayor of London. She died in 1530, and her heir was John Bodley: he seems to have lived but a short time, for all his estates centred in his aunt, Dionysia Bodley. She married Nicholas Leveson, Esq., Sheriff of London in 1534. She died in 1561, holding this manor of the Earl of Oxford, and 400 acres of arable, 40 of meadow, 400 of pasture, 100 of wood, and 5*l.* rent. Thomas Leveson, her second son, was her heir; his grandson, Sir Richard Leveson, knight of the bath, sold this estate to Sir Robert Wiseman, of Torrell's-hall. The estate continued some time in this family, till it was sold to John Brocket, Esq., in whose family it remained.

The manor of Mynchens was part of the possessions of the monastery of Clerkenwell; but before that time it belonged to the family of Scroop of Masham. Stephen le Scroop, who died in 1405, held two tenements here, called Mynges, of the honour of Richmond; and Pelhams, of the castle of Ansty. It does not appear when, or by whom, this estate was given to the nunnery of Clerkenwell. At the suppression it came to the crown, when Henry VIII. gave it to Sir Richard Riche in 1539, it being then called 30 acres of arable, 4 of meadow, and 30 of pasture, in Willingale Spain, and Dou and Fyfield. Richard Lord Riche alienated this messuage or tenement to John Waylett, who died in 1567. In 1578 Queen Elizabeth granted a messuage, called Mynfons, or Myttons, containing 7 acres of land in this parish, to Edward Thomlinson and Anthony Page. Anne, widow of Anthony Nicolas, remarried to George Price, settled in trustees a capital farm, called Minfins, in this parish, in 1683. Since that time it has belonged to Jeremy Shaw, Esq., of Colchester, who sold it to Mr. John Hammond, of Walthamstow. There are
 3 computed

computed to be about 900 acres of land in this parish, which is rated to the land-tax at 547/.

The church is dedicated to St. Andrew and All Saints; on which account the parish is sometimes called Willingale All Saints. The church is small, and stands in the same church-yard as the other. It has a shingled spire. The rectory is valued in the king's books at 7*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, and is not discharged. William de Ispania, or Spain, gave this church to the priory of St. Laurence at Blackmore. Some time after, a vicarage was ordained by Fulk Basset, and the profits of the living divided between the convent and the vicar, who was thenceforth nominated by the Bishop of London, and presented by the priory. At length the ordination of the vicarage was annulled, and the profits went to the rector, reserving to the convent a pension of 40*s.* a year to pray for William Spain and his relations. This was done in 1398. At the dissolution the right of presentation came to the crown; but the nomination remained in the Bishop of London, and has continued so ever since.



THE HALF HUNDRED OF HARLOW.

THE half hundred of Harlow, in its greatest extent from north to south, is about twelve miles long, and from east to west about six miles broad. It stands in a pleasant and healthy part of the county, and received its name from the chief town in it, that of Harlow. It is bounded on the north by Utlesford, by Waltham on the south, part of the hundreds of Ongar and Dunmow on the east, and its western boundary is the river Stort, which separates it from Hertfordshire, except at Hide-hall, and some lands about Hockerill that are on the eastern side of that river.

The half hundred appears to have belonged anciently to the noble family of Bohun, Earls of Hereford and Essex, and to their successors. Humphrey de Bohun, who died in 1372, held it of the king in capite; and so did Humphrey Duke of Buckingham in 1458. Probably, upon the attainder of Edward Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, it came to the crown. The Riche family obtained a grant of it afterwards. Richard Lord Riche died possessed of it in 1566. His successors, Earls of Warwick, were seised of it in fee; and the Earl of Nottingham, who married one of the coheiresses

coheireffes of that noble family, enjoyed it by the same title. This half hundred and deanery are in the archdeaconry of Middlesex. Within the half hundred of Harlow are eleven parishes: Harlow, Latton, Nettlewell, Roydon, Great Parndon, Little Parndon, Matching, Shering, Hatfield Regis or Broad Oak, Great Hallingbury, and Little Hallingbury.

H A R L O W.

THERE are four different Saxon words, from which the first syllable of this name may be derived, signifying hoary, a hare, bigger, and an army; but from which of them it comes, it is not easy to determine. The word low, in Saxon, signifies a hillock, or rising ground. The town is 23 miles distant from London; it had formerly a market on Saturday, now out of use: but it has three considerable fairs, on Whitmonday, September 9th, and November 28th, for horses and cattle. Within its extensive bounds the following manors are contained: Harlow Bury; the manor of Brent-hall, now New-hall; the manor of Kechin-hall; the manor of Hubert's-hall; that of Moore-hall; and the manor of Weld, or Sewells.

The lands here belonged, in Edward the Confessor's reign, to St. Edmund's Bury abbey, and to six freemen. At the time of the survey they were held by the same abbey, and by some other tenants.

Harlow Bury stands about half a mile north-north-east from the church. This probably was one of the abbot's inns in his way to parliament, lying near the great road leading from Bury to London. The large chapel, still standing near the house, would hardly have been built for the use of his tenant so near the church. This estate was given to the abbey of St. Edmund's Bury by Thurstan, son of Wina, a noble Saxon, in the Confessor's reign. The abbot held this manor of the king as part of his barony. It continued in this abbey till the suppression, when it came to the crown. King Henry VIII. in 1544 granted this manor of Harlow, with the rectory and advowson of the vicarage, to Catharine Addington, the widow of a knight of that name, and to Thomas Addington, Esq.; the latter held the manor, the rectory, and advowson of the vicarage, a market, and a fair there, with 10 messuages, 20 cottages, and 500 acres of arable land, &c., by the twentieth part of a knight's fee, then valued at 60*l.* per annum, at the time of his decease in 1554. It continued in

this family some time, till it was purchased from them by Francis Lord Guildford, second son of Dudley Lord North, of Kirtling, solicitor, then attorney general, and lord chief justice of the common pleas, and lord keeper, in the reign of Charles II. He died in 1684, and in his posterity it has continued.

The manor of Brent-hall, now New-hall, was taken from the manor of Harlow Bury; but it is not known whether the lordship only or the lands were in the abbot. The house was burnt down, and this occasioned the name of Brent-hall; but New-hall is risen out of its ruins, and stands near the church. There is a wood belonging to it, called Brentwood. David de Fletewyke, who died in 1355, held this manor of John de Insula de Rubo Monte. It was afterwards in the family of Bugge. John Bugge, Esq., had it in 1442 of the king of his dutchy of Lancaster. In 1694 it was purchased by Henry Lamb, citizen and goldsmith, of London. It is remarkable of this gentleman that he was shot at by a highwayman, and the ball lodged in his watch. Of him or his heirs, Robert Chester, Esq., a South-sea director, purchased it; upon whose forfeiture it came to the South-sea company, and was by them sold. It then came to William Batt, Esq., of Nunton, near Salisbury.

The manor of Kechin-hall, has a mansion-house is about a mile and half from the church to the south, near Potter's-street. Pope Boniface IX. appropriated this manor to the maintenance of the abbot's kitchen and table of Harlow Bury, and from thence the name was most probably derived. It was not held of the abbot after the reign of Edward III. In 1317 Robert de Hastings held it; Thomas Longueville in 1346; John Roundall bought it of Robert Webb in 1403. In 1442 John Bugge, Esq., held it of the Duke of York; of one of his successors, it was bought by George Benson, Esq., in 1605. William Benson, who had it in 1644, sold it to Sir Abraham Reynardson, Knight. His widow held it in 1663. Mr. Lamb bought it with New-hall; and after him, Mr. Chester. The South-sea company fold it as the former; and William Batt, Esq., had it last.

Hubert's-hall stands about three quarters of a mile south of the church. It was held of the manor of Harlow Bury. The estate takes the name from the family of Hubert, one of which, Robert Hubert, of Herlawe, lived in the reign of Edward III. Sir John Shaa, Lord Mayor of London, was the next possessor in 1501. His son had it next in 1532. Alice, his only daughter and heiress, afterwards brought this and other estates in marriage to William Poley, Esq., of Boxted, in Suffolk. He died
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in 1587, holding this manor of William Addington, Esq., as of his manor of Harlow Bury. It continued in his son, who died in 1593; then in his brother; and afterwards came to the family of Reeve, descended from the Reeves of Long Melford, in Suffolk. It continued in them till Robert, whose father died in 1639, and mother in 1642, became possessed of it: he left a son, father of — Wiltshire, Esq., whose son sold the estate to John Brown, Esq., of Covent-garden. He left it to Colonel John Brown; from whom it came to William Selwyn, Esq.

The manor of Moore-hall has a mansion-house near a mile north-east from the church. Eustace Earl of Boulogne, and his tenant, held this, in all probability, which belonged to a freeman in the Confessor's reign. Under Robert Lord Scales, who died in 1324, Matthew de Wodeham and John Snow held the manor, called then Le Mour-hall, as of his manor of Rewen-hall, by the service of one knight's fee. It came afterwards into the Bugge family. Thomas Bugge, who died in 1458, held the manor of the Duke of Buckingham. The estate was purchased of this family by the father of Benjamin Henshaw, Esq.

The manor of Weld, Sewales, or Sewells. In old records it is called Walda and Wells. The name appears to be derived from the word weald, a wood. The addition of Se might be a contraction of south, and intended to denote South Wood. In the Confessor's reign it belonged to Godwin; and at the time of the survey it was held by Ralph, brother of Ilger, and his tenant. There is no account of its succeeding owners till the reign of Edward IV., when it belonged to the Colt family, with several other large estates. Joan, widow of Thomas Colt, remarried Sir William Parre, and died in possession of it in 1475. The father of Sir Henry Colt, Knight, disposed of the estate before his death in 1616. It was afterwards mortgaged to Mrs. Howland, of Streatham; and she having entered upon it, it came to her daughter, Elizabeth, Duchess of Bedford; and then to John Duke of Bedford, who sold it to Thomas Holt, Esq., of Rochford. It afterwards came to Mr. White, of London. There are several other estates in the parish: Harlow Park, Harlow Tye, Old House, Campions, Rouffey Hall, Jacoutts, and Upper House, and other smaller ones. Here are also some benefactions, 20*l.* to the repairs of the church, and 30*l.* to the poor.

The church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary and All Saints, is pleasantly situated on rising ground, and is one of the finest and best ornamented churches in the county. It was formerly of a cathedral form, with the steeple in the middle; but the greater

part having been accidentally burnt down by fire in 1708, it was rebuilt, or repaired in its present form, by the interest and direction of the Rev. Mr. Taylor, then vicar, who greatly embellished it with painted glass, and other ornaments, at his own expence. Many county gentlemen added their arms in painted glass, with which the church and chancel windows are adorned. Mr. Taylor also provided an organ in the church, and left a house for the organist to dwell in, and another, the rent of which he receives. Francis Lord Guildford built a gallery in the church; and Robert Chester, Esq., was at the expence of a curious rail round the font. The tower, which is now at the west end, and of brick, has a cupola and lanthorn at the top, leaded.

The church was originally a rectory appendant to the manor of Harlow Bury, and consequently in the patronage of the abbey of St. Edmund's Bury, which presented to it as a rectory till about the year 1398, when Pope Boniface appropriated it to the maintenance of the abbot's table; he was then left at liberty to have the cure supplied by one of his own monks, or by such a secular priest as he should appoint: but for the benefit of the parishioners, and in obedience to the laws, he condescended to have a vicarage ordained and endowed, which was done in 1398. The presentation to the vicarage from that time continued in the abbot and convent till their dissolution, when it came to the crown, and was granted to Thomas Addington; but notwithstanding, the crown presented to the two next vacancies. From Addington it passed to the Right Honourable Lord Guildford, and has been ever since in that family. There were formerly two chantries in this church; one founded at the altar of St. Petronilla the Virgin; the other at the altar of St. Thomas, founded by John Stanton, the first rector of this church, according to the entry of the London registry. It was endowed with a house, out-houses, &c., 40 acres of land, &c. At the suppression it was valued at 9*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.*; and in the certificate was said to be a great and populous town, having in it about 400 houseling people. In 1575 Queen Elizabeth granted a 21 years lease of this estate to William Calcote, of Lamyate, in Somersetshire, Gent., who assigned his term in the February following to William Newman, Gent., of Harlow. In 1585 the queen granted another 21 years lease to William Hannys, Gent.: this was to take place after Newman's, for Newman in 1591 granted his interest to Nicolas Sibley, draper, of Harlow. The rent reserved to the queen was 4*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* In 1607 James I. granted this estate to Michael Cole and John Rawdon, and their heirs. In 1609 they sold it to Francis Neve, merchant

taylor, of London; and in 1615 Neve and his wife conveyed it to Alexander Stafford, Gent., of Holborn. He in 1617 enfeoffed several persons and their heirs in this chantry estate, after his own and his wife's life, for such uses as he should appoint. Julian, his wife, by her will in 1630, vested this estate in certain trustees and their heirs upon trust, that 20*l.* per annum should be equally distributed to four poor scholars of Catharine Hall in Cambridge, who study divinity, to be nominated by the master of that hall for the time being; and that they should pay 5*l.* apiece to two poor scholars of Pembroke College, in Oxford, for ever. Samuel Harrison, Gent., of Harlow, purchased this estate, and in his lifetime settled it upon his son, Richard Harrison, Gent., attorney at law, who left it to his widow. Mr. Bernard Harrison had the chantry, and the largest part of the estate of the late Mr. Richard Harrison. His three sisters, Edward Wife, Gent., and the Rev. Samuel Wife, had a sixth part of the farm called Squiers, and the Crown inn and lands belonging to it. This large parish is rated to the land-tax at 2743*l.* The vicarage is rated in the king's books at 15*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.* per annum, and is not discharged.

L A T T O N.

THE name of this parish is formed of late town, denoting a town or parish lately erected out of the forest. It lies west of Harlow, and is very long, extending southward as far as the parish of Epping. In the Saxons' times the lands were possessed by freemen. At the time of the survey they were held of St. Edmund's Bury abbey, by Eustace Earl of Boulogne and his tenants, and by Peter de Valoignes and his tenants. The part which Bury-abbey had, was converted into a priory afterwards. The part which Eustace held took its name from his tenant Adelolf de Merc, and made Mark-hall. The part of Peter de Valoignes came by an heiress into the family of Fitz-Walter, and was in time incorporated into the other estates here. In 1165 Ralph de Latton held one knight's fee here, and a quarter of Robert de Valoignes. There are two manors in this parish, Latton-hall and Mark-hall.

The manor of Latton-hall belonged to St. Edmund's Bury abbey, and was converted into a priory here, independent of that great abbey; but when and by whom founded is not known. It is supposed that it had the rents of Harlow Bury till the abbot got them appropriated to his table jointly with this manor; for from that time

we hear no more of the abbot here. But either under or jointly with the abbot, this manor of Latton, or a moiety of it, and the advowson of the church, were held by the families of Tany, De Colchester, Tyrell, Wery, and especially of Bibbesworth, from the 27th of Edward III. to the 1st of Henry VII. Sir Peter de Tany was sheriff of Essex and Hertfordshire in the reign of Henry II. Richard de Tany held the manor of Latton of Sir William Comyn, belonging to the honour of Beneton; but it was formerly held of the honour of Boulogne, with a part held by Henry de Mark, and another by the abbot of St. Edmund's, which three parts fell among three sisters. Half of the advowson of the church belonged to this manor, and half to the priory of Latton. Richard Tany was his son and heir. From this family the parish bore the name of Latton Tany. About the year 1314 Elias, son of John de Colchester, held the manor of the king. The manor and advowson were also held by Augustin le Wallais and Maud, his wife, in 1348. In him the two manors of this parish seem to be united; for at the time of his death, in 1354, he held the manor of Mark-hall here, with the advowson of the priory, of the king. His two daughters, Margery, wife of John Malewyn, and Margaret, wife of William Carleton, were his heiresses.

But in 1353 Thomas de Sakeville had passed by a fine a moiety of this manor, and others, to John de Bibbesworth. This continued in the Bibbesworth family as far as the year 1485. In the mean time, in 1445, Thomas, son and heir of Sir John Tyrell, released to Robert Rolleston, and others, all his right in the manor of Marks Latton, and the advowson of the priory; and the next year Gregory Wery released all his right in it to Peter Arden and his heirs. Thomas Bibbesworth's heirs, who died in 1485, were Joan, wife of Thomas Barley, and John Cotys. In 1487 John Cotys paid relief for a moiety of this manor, and he and his wife by fine passed it to Thomas Sall, William Harper, and others. In 1566 Richard Westwood and Margery, his wife, conveyed to James Altham, Esq., and his wife, lands, &c., in Latton and Harlow. He also purchased the manor of Mark-hall, and the site of Latton priory.

This priory was for canons of the order of St. Augustin, and dedicated to St. John the Baptist; but it is not known by whom it was founded, nor when, only that it was built before the year 1270. It stood on the south side of the church, and was a stately building, in form of a cross, with arches and windows of free-stone curiously done: most of it is now standing, but has been converted into a barn. In 1534

John Taylor, the last prior, held the site of this priory of Thomas Shaa in perpetual alms, with all appurtenances belonging to it, which consisted of 200 acres of arable, 200 of pasture, 30 of meadow, 10 of wood, and 3*l.* rent, with the advowson and patronage of the church of Latton, the whole then valued at 10*l.* per annum. Those lands are supposed to be what lie three miles south of the church, some of them coming up the road which leads from Harlow to Epping. The house stands half a mile from the road in a solitary place, surrounded by a moat. The old house is down, and a mean farm-house is there in its room. There appear to have been very few monks belonging to the priory, for the Bishop of London often put in a prior for want of a sufficient number of canons to choose a prior according to the statutes. After the suppression, Henry VIII. granted the site of this priory in 1536 to Sir Henry Parker and his heirs. John Hethe had licence in 1556 to alienate the site of this priory to John Tittley, Esq., who presented to the church in 1559 and 1561. About that time John Tittley conveyed it to James Altham, Esq.

Mark-hall is the other manor, which stands near the church. In 1275 Alda, daughter of Geoffrey Dynant, held in this place of the Countess of Lisle, 260 acres of land assigned to her as dower. In 1290 Juliana, widow of Henry de Mark, also had half a knight's fee here, of the honour of Boulogne, by way of dower. In Edward II.'s reign, Elias, son of John of Colchester, held it; and Augustin le Walleis, in the next reign, and John de Ludwyk, William de Forde, clerk, and John Bishopston, clerk.

In 1375 John de Bishopston released to William Berland and heirs all his right in the manor of Mark-hall, and the fair of Latton. Ludwyk had also the advowson of the priory. Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Sir William Berland, brought this estate in marriage to her husband, John Baud, Esq. He held it at his death in 1422. Sir John Shaa, who died in 1503, held it, consisting of 100 acres of arable, 50 of meadow, 40 of pasture, 30 of wood, with appurtenances, and the advowson of the church. Edmund Shaa, his son, let the manor for 99 years to Henry Parker, Lord Morley, to whom Thomas Shaa sold it in 1538. His lordship in 1562 alienated it to James Altham, Esq., and his wife; by which means that family became possessed of almost the whole parish, which they still enjoy. Edward Altham, Esq., was descended from an ancient family in Lancashire, where a manor and town is so called: he was sheriff of London in 1531, and had a son, who purchased this estate. Latton park

park is about two miles fouth of the church. Here are some few other estates. The parish is rated to the land-tax at 946*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*

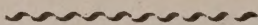
The church stands pleasantly on a rising ground near the hall, and is dedicated to the Virgin Mary. It is of one pace with the chancel; adjoining to the north side is a chapel, dedicated to the Holy Trinity and the Virgin, built by Sir Peter Ardern, serjeant at law, chief baron of the Exchequer, and justice of the King's Bench, in the reigns of Henry VI. and Edward IV.: in it he founded a chantry. Brian Ray-clouffe in 1476 gave a messuage to the chaplain. A confessional is still remaining in the church. A square tower, embattled, at the west end, contains four bells. This church was anciently appropriated to the priory of Latton, and a vicarage ordained and endowed, which continued in the gift of that convent till its dissolution; since which time it has gone along with the manor. Sir James Altham settled the great tithes of this parish upon the vicarage; so that it is to be considered as a rectory. It is not discharged, and is reckoned at the yearly value of 7*l.* in the king's books.

NETTLESWELL.

THIS parish is south-south-west of Latton, and seems to be derived from the two words nettle and well. Nettlewell, with all its appurtenances and lordships, was one of the seventeen lordships given by Earl Harold, afterwards king, to his great abbey of Waltham, and confirmed to it with the church by King Henry II. and Richard I. No mention is made of it in Domefday-book. After the dissolution King Henry VIII. in 1543 granted this manor of Nettlewell, and Nettlewell or Bray's-grove, and the advowson of the church, held of the king in capite, to Richard Higham, Esq., and his heirs. In 1560 John Higham and his wife, Martha, alienated this estate to Sir Richard Weston, one of the justices of the Common Pleas. It continued in this family till Sir William Marten, Knight, had it; he presented to the living in 1634 and 1640. William Marten, Esq., who died in 1717, had for wife, Mary, sister of Sir Thomas Cross, Bart., of Westminster. Having no issue by her, he left her this estate for life; and after her death, to the first son of his niece, Anne Lewen, and so in tail male for ever, expressly ordering, that whoever came to this estate should take the surname of Marten. For failure of issue, he left it to Matthew Black, Esq., of Honfdon. By a codicil to his will, Mr. Marten appointed his trustees

to raise 500*l.* out of his estate, and to lay it out on an estate, rent-charge, or fee-farm rent, for a free-school here. By another codicil, instead of that 500*l.* he left 1000*l.* for erecting, maintaining, and supporting a charity-school in this parish. Nettlewell-street is a collection of scattered houses in the road from Latton to Parndon. There is a mill over the river Stort, which goes by the name of Burnt-mill, from having been burnt down some years ago. It has of late been burnt again. This parish is rated to the land-tax at 930*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.*

The church is small, of one pace with the chancel; at the west end is a wooden turret, with a shingled spire, containing three bells. This rectory in former times belonged to the abbey of Waltham. After the suppression it was granted to Higham, with the name of Nettlewell Bury, that stands near it, and has usually gone with it. In 1716 Richard Sayer, Gent., presented to the living, and in 1734 William Bedford, Gent. The rectory is valued in the king's books at 13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, and is not discharged.



R O Y D O N.

THIS parish derives the name from two words, which signify a sweet hill: it is otherwise written Reyndon. A part of it stands on a hill, commanding the pleasant meadows watered by the river Stort. It is the western angle of this half hundred towards Hertfordshire, from which the Stort divides it. On the south is the half hundred of Waltham, into which Roydon hamlet extends. In the reign of the Confessor this parish belonged to Inguar, a freeman, and five others. At the survey it was held by Ranulf, brother of Ilger; and there was adjoining to it a hamlet, which Richard held of Ranulf. These lands were afterwards divided into four manors; that of Roydon; that of Temple Roydon, or the rectory; the manor of Dounes; and that of Netherhall.

Roydon-hall is about a furlong from the church, at the bottom of the green. From Ranulph's heirs, who, to all appearance, were the Baynards, it came to the noble family of Fitz-Walter, by grant from the crown, upon the felony and forfeiture of William Baynard, in the reign of Henry I. Robert Fitz-Walter held this manor of the king of the honour of Baynard; and in 1285 Edward I. granted him 200*l.* per annum, lands and rents, of this manor and that of Burnham; and in 1290 a charter for a market here every Thursday, and a fair on the 1st and 2d

of

of August. Robert gave this estate and several tenements to the knights templars ; upon whose extirpation, in 1311, they were conferred upon the knights hospitallers : they enjoyed them till the dissolution of religious houses, when this manor of Temple Roydon fell to the crown, and continued in it till May 1602, when Queen Elizabeth granted it to Francis Lord Norrys, and others, with the site of the manor, and all the demesne lands, containing, by estimation, 249 acres. In the June following she granted the same to Thomas Bellet and Richard Langley ; and they alienated in the same year to Sir Robert Cecil, afterwards Earl of Salisbury, the manor and rectory of Temple Roydon and advowson of the vicarage. He died in possession of them in 1612, and they continued in his posterity till his great-grandson, James Earl of Salisbury, sold them to Sir Josiah Child, from whom they descended to John Earl Tylney.

The manor of the rectory of Temple Roydon passed with the manor last mentioned. The parsonage-house is on the same side as the church adjoining to the church-yard.

The manor of Dounes was held of the prior of St. John of Jerusalem. In the reign of Edward III. it appears to have belonged to the Wanton family ; next, to one of their descendants ; and afterwards to Ivo de Harleston, who died in 1403 ; he held the manor of Dounes of the prior aforesaid by fealty and yearly rent of 5*s.* and 1*d.* John was his son. In 1466 Henry and Robert Harleston, his brothers, released all their rights in the manor of Down-hall, with appurtenances, to Sir Robert Danby, Sir Walter Blount, and others. It was afterwards in the Colt family, of which George Colt, Esq., who died in 1616, held the manor. It lately belonged to Paul Field, Esq., of Stansted Bury.

The manor of Netherhall is so named from the low situation of the house, near the confluence of the rivers Lea and Stort, about a mile and a half south-west of the church. It is large and old, and was formerly held of Waltham-abbey, which in 1280 purchased here 25 acres of arable and 5 of pasture land of Alexander de Alriscsey. Thomas, son of John Organ, of London, in 1401, conveyed his tenement, called Netherhall, in Roydon and Rasing, to Nicolas Collern and other ; and Thomas Prudence, who had it before the gift of John Organ, and Margary, his wife, released in 1407 all his right in the same unto Simon Barnewell, of London. It was next in the family of Colt ; they made this the place of their residence for many years, and several of them were buried in the church. Thomas Colt, Esq., lived in the reign
of

of Edward IV., and was by that prince employed in some honourable post abroad. He died in 1476, and was buried here. It continued in this family a considerable time. Sir Henry Colt, Knight, sold most of his estates, and George, his son, came into a very small inheritance: this was about the year 1635. The estate went after that to John Archer, Esq., of Cooperale. Cramhorne tenement, and the third part of Baldwin in this parish, were held by Richard Heigham. In 1522 the master and fellows of Christ's college, in Cambridge, are recorded to have had the manor of Roydon; but how they lost it is not known. Here are also some other estates. Roydon town is rated to the land-tax at 1278*l.*, and Roydon hamlet at 752*l.* The vicarage is discharged, and is valued in the king's books at 30*l.* 10*s.* per annum. Here are some small donations.

The church, dedicated to St. Peter, stands in the village, which is a little kind of town. It has a north aisle, but the chancel is of one pace. At the west end is a tower embattled, in which are six bells and a clock. The rectory has been mentioned before; as to the vicarage, it was appendant to the manor of Roydon-hall, and in the gift of the knights templars and hospitallers; from whom it passed to the Earl of Salisbury and to Earl Tylney. This vicarage was augmented in 1729 with 200*l.* by the Duchess Dowager of Marlborough; to which were added 200*l.* of Queen Anne's bounty.

P A R N D O N.

TO the east of Roydon lie the two parishes of Great and Little Parndon. The words may be formed either from the Saxon words pear, pasture, hill; or, a wood, a park; and dun, a hill, or den, a valley. When the two parishes were divided first, is not known.

G R E A T P A R N D O N.

THIS parish is the larger of the two, as the name implies, and comprehends the manor of Great Parndon and Jerounds, and of Catherines, of Passiners, and of Canons.

The manor of Great Parndon is what belonged to Earl Eustace, and afterwards to the Whitfand family. In 1211 William de Whitfand held one fee in Perenden of the
honour

honour of Boulogne. His son held of the same honour 350 acres of arable, 15 of meadow, 7 of pasture, 40 of wood of knights service, and 13s. 6d. rent of assize, and the advowson of the church; and of the abbey of Byleigh in this village, 24 acres by the rent of 2s. 1d. per annum; and of the hospitallers, 6 acres of arable. He died in 1253. His son, Baldwin, held 1 messuage, 240 acres of arable, &c. &c. Three daughters were his coheiresses, who carried their parts of the estate and advowson to their husbands: Agnes, married to Sir Walter Jeround; Lucia, to some person not known; Elizabeth, to Tayleferis, of Wynton.

Jeround gave name to the manor of Jerounds or Jerons, corruptly called Garrards. The mansion-house stands on the north side of the church. Walter Jeround died in 1307. Tayleferis, of Wynton, in Winchester, died in 1332, holding 120 acres of arable, &c., and the third part of the advowson of the church. Richard de Nottingham presented to the living in 1325; and Richard Winchester, who died in 1348, held the third part of the manor of Great Parndon of the king; Joan, his widow, enjoyed it after him, and died in 1361; her two daughters and coheiresses were, Meliora, wife of William Rolfe, and Catherine, wife of John at Church; the latter died in 1396. Rolfe's share most probably centered in the Church family, for Robert Church held 240 acres of arable here, half of which were of the king of the honour of Boulogne, and the remainder of the Countess of Hereford, and the abbess of Byleigh. Joan, his only daughter, was married to Richard Maister, who presented to the church in 1407. The next owner was R. Steward, Gent., who presented in 1467. It was afterwards in Finch, who had estates in Harlow and Stondon. In 1529 Andrew Finch and others alienated this manor and the third part of the advowson to John Hales, one of the barons of the exchequer. It came afterwards to the crown, but how is not ascertained. In 1553 Edward VI. granted to the mayor, commons, and city of London, the manor of Gerons, with appurtenances: they presented in 1571 to the church as governors of the hospitals of Bridewell, St. Thomas, and Christ's, and have remained ever since possessed of the premises.

The manor of Catherines, commonly called the manor of St. Catherines, is the share that Lucia de Whytland brought to her husband. The house stands on the south side of the church, and is old. The estate took the name from their daughter Katherine de London. It was afterwards given to Waltham-abbey, by whom is not known, unless it was by the Rokesborough family, who were benefactors to that

monastery. In 1383 William Rokefborough held a carucate of land of the honour of Boulogne in Great Parndon. In 1434 Isabella Rokefborough, widow, and Walter at Wode, presented to the living. The abbey presented in 1452. At the suppression it came to the crown, when Henry VIII. granted it by the name of Catherine Paryndonwood, and the third part of the presentation or advowson of the church, to Richard Higham, Esq., and his heirs. He sold it by licence in 1544 to Andrew Finche, who died in 1563 possessed of the manor and the third part of the advowson of the church. His son, John, sold them to Thomas Skipton in 1580. Robert and Simon Adams presented to the church in 1558; Nathaniel Tracy in 1588; and John Welden in 1645.

The manor of Passemers took its name from the Passemere family, who were settled here in the third year of Henry III.'s reign. Baldwin de Whytsand held lands here then of William de Passemere. The house stands about a mile east from the church, by the side of a brook. The greater part of this estate has been disposed of; it was some time since in a family named Naylor; then Mr. Sale, of Wadesmill, in Hertfordshire, had it: he sold it to George Brewer, Gent., who conveyed it to the Rev. Thomas Browne; from him it passed by sale to Mrs. Pink; and from her to Jonathan Numen, Esq., who died in 1730; and his widow enjoyed it after him; then it descended to their daughter and heiress, Hannah, married to Richard Glover, Esq., of London.

The manor of Canons is so called because it belonged anciently to a monastery of canons of the Præmonstratensian order, styled the Canons of Perendon, founded, or at least endowed, by Roger and Robert de Perendon, and Clement, son of Reginald: these canons were removed in 1180 to Byleigh abbey, near Malden, founded by Robert Mantell, and dedicated to St. Nicholas; but though they were so removed, this estate continued in their possession, and was confirmed to them by the charter of Richard I.: they continued possessed of it till the general dissolution of monasteries, when it came to the crown: it was then leased for the yearly rent of 16*l.* 4*s.* In 1546 Henry VIII. granted this estate to Sir Thomas D'Arcy, gentleman of his bedchamber, in exchange for another; Sir Thomas in 1547 alienated it to John Hanchett and Bridget, his wife. They left an only daughter, Martha, who carried Canons to her husband, Edward Turner, Esq. John Hanchett in 1551 sold some parcels of this manor to Reginald Sumpner. Sumpner alienated them in 1565 to Edward Turner, amounting to 114 acres; and in 1568 Turner sold some lands to
John

John Fynch : of these Canon fields, and of the manor of Canons, alias Parrington Canons, Sir Edward Altham died possessed in 1632. The Farmer family had it next, and Sir Edward Farmer resided here. In the seventeenth century Sir Josiah Child purchased it, and it descended to Lord Tylney, the late possessor. There was a magnificent house here, built probably with the materials of the monastery : it stood about a mile north of the church, on the right-hand side of the road leading from Harlow to Roydon, in a bottom ; great part of it was lately pulled down. There are some other estates in the parish. The two parishes of Great and Little Parndon are rated together at 1435*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.* to the land-tax. John Ceely, or Sealy, a native of the parish, gave 100*l.* to be laid out in the purchase of lands or tenements of the yearly value of 5*l.* or more clear, which he settled on the parson and churchwardens of the parish for ever, to be distributed among the poorest inhabitants.

The church is situated on a rising ground, and consists of a body and south aisle. The chancel is only of one pace, with a vestry on the north side. At the west end is a tower shingled. The rectory was originally appendant on the manor of Great Parndon. Upon the division of Whytsand's estate among his three coheiresses, it came into three hands, and has continued so ever since, namely, in the governors of Christ's, St. Thomas's, and Bridewell hospitals, and two others. The rectory is valued in the king's books at 16*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.* .., and is not discharged.

LITTLE PARNDON.

THIS parish is delightfully situated near the river Stort. In the Confessor's reign it belonged to one freeman. At the time of the survey it was one of the twelve lordships which Peter de Valoines held in this county. This was afterwards reckoned a part of the manor of Benington, in Hertfordshire, which Alexander de Baliol held in right of his wife, Lora, daughter of Peter, grandson of Peter de Valoines. In the reign of Henry III. Sir John de la Marc was owner of the estate ; but Alexander Baliol having sold the estate of Benington to John de Bensted in 1284, Little Parndon went along with it. He was justice of the Common Pleas and member of Parliament in 1310. Petronilla, his wife, held the estate during her life : she died in 1342 : she had also the advowson of the church. It continued some

time in the family of Bensted, and then came to the Colt family, in which it remained till the seventeenth century. About that time it was purchased by Arthur Turner, Esq., of Canons, or his son Edward. This family, which is of great antiquity, was originally seated at Haverhill, in Suffolk. It continued in this family till the death of Charles Turner, Esq., in 1726, when the family became extinct, except Sarah, who was grand-daughter of the last Sir Edward Turner: her mother was Sarah, Sir Edward's daughter, married to Mr. Francis Gee. Edward Turner, Esq., of Shillingley Park, in Suffex, second son of Chief Baron Turner, was heir to the family, who then gave his estate to this Sarah, who married Mr. Garth, and claimed the reversion of Parndon. Another person claimed it by virtue of a will, made by Sibilla, elder daughter of Charles Turner, Esq., who bequeathed it to — Petre, of Ongar, attorney at law, and Thomas Crawford, vintner, of London. They have since sold this manor, with appurtenances, to Edward Parsons, Esq. The manor-house stands on the right hand of the road leading from Harlow to Roydon, and is agreeably situated. Mr. Thomas Coulson had also an estate in the parish.

The church, which stands near the river Stort, is very small, both church and chancel being of one pace and breadth; the chancel has a north aisle. A small wooden turret at the west end contains one bell. The rectory has been always appendant on the manor. The Bensteds presented to it from 1334 to 1441, and the Colt family from 1467 to 1565. Thomas Crawford presented in 1472. The rectory is discharged, and is valued in the king's books at 46*l.* 18*s.* per annum.

MATCHING.

THE English word match, or the Saxon word which signifies even, or equal, does not afford much ground to suppose that it is derived from either of them: the latter syllable in the Saxon language implies a pasture. It is north-east from Harlow, and joins Ongar hundred. In the Confessor's reign it belonged to Esger and to two freemen. At the time of the survey it was held by Robert Gernon and his under-tenant; by Geoffrey de Mandeville, whose part was Stock-hall; and William de Warenne, who had Ovesham-hall. The manors at present in the parish are those of Matching-hall, Watermans, Stock-hall, and Ovesham-hall.

The manor of Matching has a manor-house, called Matching-hall, which stands on the south side of the church. This is the estate which Gernon had, and was held afterwards of the lords of Stansted Montfichet. Humphrey de Weleden, who died in 1331, held the manor of John of Lancaster, lord of Stansted Montfichet. The noble family of De Vere having acquired the lordship of Stansted, this manor was found to be held of John and Thomas De Vere, Earls of Oxford, who died in 1358 and 1370. John Walden, who died in 1401, had the manor of Matching-hall. John Walden, another, had it in 1419. His sisters and coheiresses next possessed it; they were Catherine, wife of John Barley, and Margaret, wife of Henry Langley. The inheritance, in all probability, came to Langley, who had it at the time of his death in 1471. In 1517 Catherine Langley, wife of John Marshall, had it at her death: her daughters and heiresses were, Eleanor, wife of Henry, son of Sir John Cutt, and Mary, wife of John, son and heir of Richard Cutt. Henry Cutt, Esq., died in 1573. It continued some time in this family; and at length was purchased by the family of Masham, of whom we have before spoken.

Waterman's manor is sometimes called the manor of Matching, or Matching-green. The house which belonged to it stood about three quarters of a mile from the church. It is fallen down, and only something of an orchard remaining. There is a place called Waterman's End within a quarter of a mile of Stock-hall. The estate was given to Waltham-abbey, but it is not known when or by whom. In 1359, in all probability, John Roberd, of High Rothering, and his heirs, had it; the lease was made for 300 years. At the time of the suppression the rents of assize were 43s. 4d., and perquisites of court 1½d. In 1544 Henry VIII. granted this manor to George Clifford and William Welbore. He paid very high for his lease. Welbore in 1547 sold the estate to Geoffrey Lukyn. In 1554 William Lukyn sold it to Sir William Petre, and in this family it has continued ever since.

The manor of Stock-hall has a mansion-house, about a mile south-east of the church near Matching-green. This part was held before the Conquest by Esger, and at the time of the survey by Geoffrey de Mandeville. It holds a court baron. Thomas Battail held one fee in Matching and Great Waltham under Henry de Bohun, Earl of Essex, in 1372, which is supposed to be this estate. Margaret Bays had it next; then Thomas Battail in 1453. Robert Brown, of Rookwood-hall, in Abbots Roding, Esq., who died in 1488, held the manor of Stock-hall of Nicholas Barington of his manor of Matching Barnes. Sir Humphrey Brown in 1553 passed

it

it by fine to John Lyndesell and others. Thomas Aylett had it at his death in 1607. Thomas Gittens, who married Susan, daughter and heiress of Thomas Aylett, sold the estate to Thomas Bennett, of North Weald. The trustees of his son and daughter sold it to James Brain, Esq., in 1707, high sheriff of the county in 1724. He gave it to his daughter, married to Daniel Quare, Gent.

The manor of Ovesham, commonly called Hounsham-hall. The hall stands about a mile and an half west from the church. This manor, which is now only one farm, was formerly a hamlet of the parish, and a considerable part of it. It is bounded by Shering brook, and probably from thence has the name, the Saxon word signifying over, or on the bank, and ham meaning a manor-house. In the Confessor's reign a freeman held this estate; and at the survey William de Warenne had it, and his tenant. From the Warenne family it descended, by Alice, sister and heiress of John, last Earl of Warenne, to Edmund Fitz-Alan, Earl of Arundel; and Edward II. in 1314 confirmed it in fee to him; he was beheaded in 1326, and his grandson in 1397: from this family part of it came through Elizabeth, widow of Thomas Mowbray, then wife of Sir Gerard Uffet, in 1424, to him. John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, had the same. Another part of the Earl of Arundel's estates had come to William de Beauchamp, Earl of Abergavenny, through Joanna, another sister to Elizabeth. In 1485 John Howard, Duke of Norfolk, falling at Bosworth-field, his estates came to the crown, when his share was granted by Henry VII. to William Scott, Esq., who had also the other parts, for he died possessed of the manor of Ovesham-hall in 1491. It continued in this family till Elizabeth Scott brought it in marriage to Sir Edward Alleyn, Knight, of Hatfield Peverell, created a baronet in 1629. Sir Edward Alleyn leaving no male issue at his death in 1656, it reverted to the collateral male line of Scott, of Chigwell. The hamlet of Ovesham was large; and at a considerable distance from the church was a chapel, endowed with 20 acres of arable and one of meadow. Some remains of it are still visible near the hall.

Kingestons, an estate about three quarters of a mile from the church eastward, took its name from the Kingston family. They held it under the Earls of Oxford in 1358 and 1370. Richard Crampe held it in the reign of Henry VI. by giving at Christmas two small vessels bound with iron, containing four flasks of new wine.

Stone-hall

Stone-hall is a short way distant from the church. There are a few other lands in this parish, which is rated to the land-tax at 1378*l*.

The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and consists of a body and two aisles; the chancel is only of one pace; an embattled tower contains five bells. The church was given by Harvey de Boreham, Dean of St. Paul's, to the priory of Lees. In 1274 the Bishop of London, John Chishull, appropriated the great tithes to that convent, and ordained and endowed a vicarage, reserving the nomination to himself and successors, Bishops of London. After the suppression Henry VIII. in 1546 granted the impropriate tithes to Sir Richard Riche. He settled them in feoffees for the use of his foundation of a free-school at Felsted. The right of presentation is in the feoffees, but the nomination is in the Bishop of London. The vicar receives the great tithes on the east side of the highway leading from Ongar to Stortford. He had a composition for the small tithes from Matching Barnes. Part of the Hatfield farm was in Matching Barnes, though the whole may have been taken by Hatfield parish. A house on Matching-green, with some land belonging to it, about 8*l*. a year, were given for the repairs of the church. A house very near the churchyard was built by a person of the name of Chimney, and was designed for the entertainment of the poor people at their weddings. It appears to be very ancient, though ruinous. The vicarage is not discharged, and is valued in the king's books at 12*l*. 10*s*. 5*d*. per annum.

S H E R I N G.

THE name of this parish is probably derived from the Saxon word, signifying shire or county. Peter de Valoines possessed it in the reign of the Conqueror: it had belonged to three freemen in the Confessor's reign.

Shering-hall, which belonged to De Valoines, stands about a mile south-west of the church. De Valoines married the sister of Eudo Dapifer. Robert Fitz-Walter, by marriage with this family, came into the estate. It continued in this family till 1432, when it came to the Radcliffes by Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Walter Lord Fitz-Walter. Of the Radcliffes, Robert was created a viscount in 1525, and Earl of Suffex in 1529, the last heir male of this family in the direct line. Robert Earl of Suffex sold this estate, with the advowson of the church, to Lionel Cranfield, Earl of Middlesex. He in a short time alienated it to Thomas Hewett, Esq., in 1635: he

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was created a baronet in 1660. His son was created a viscount, and dying without issue divided his estates between his four sisters: Elizabeth, wife of Sir Richard Anderson, Bart.; Margaret, wife of Sir Edward Farmer, Knight, of Little Parndon; Arabella, widow of Sir William Wiseman, Bart., of Great Cranfield; and Mary, widow of Sir Charles Crofts Read, Knight. The estate was sold, and was a short time in the possession of Lady Filmer, descended from Sir William Beversham. Of her it was purchased in 1723, with two farms, for the sum of 11,325*l.* by Robert Chester, Esq., of the South-sea Company, a director: upon whose forfeiture the South-sea Company sold it to Samuel Feake, Esq., who built a feat here, having turned the great road.

The manor of Cowick Bury, now called Quick Bury, or Cowick Barns, is about a mile north-west of the church. Another house, called Cowicks, is about a mile and a quarter north-north-west of the church. In Domesday-book here was a manor, called Cinca, which was this: William de Warrene was lord of it at the survey; and Robert Guett, a brother of a Countess de Warrene, gave it to Bermondsey-abbey in 1098, and the lands held afterwards of Housham-hall, which was Warrene's. In the Confessor's reign it belonged to Aluin Godrun, and at the time of the survey to William de Warrene and his tenant. A wick of cows is a common expression in this county, and from this it had the name. After the suppression Henry VIII. in 1540 granted it for the sum of 314*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.* to Thomas Jofflyn, Esq., of New-hall, in High Roding, and his heirs. In 1556 he passed it to Robert Hurst, Gent. It continued in the Hurst family till it came to David Pettyt, Esq., of Wansted, who, dying in 1746, left the estate by will to George Lord Carpenter, who had married his only daughter. His lordship died in 1749, and was succeeded by his son. There are a few other small estates in the parish. It is rated to the land-tax at 1173*l.*

The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and is situated on rising ground; both church and chancel are of the same pace and width. On the north side of the chancel is a large vestry. The church is leaded, and the chancel tiled. A square tower at the west end contains four bells. The rectory has been always appendant to the manor of Shering-hall, and in the gift of the noble families of Fitz-Walter, Radcliffe, Hewitt, &c. Lady Arabella Wiseman sold the advowson to a gentleman, who intended it for his son: of him it was purchased with money left by Bishop Fell to Christ Church College, Oxford, and has been ever since in that seminary of learning.

learning. A house near the church was given for the repairs of the church. In the parish, about a quarter of a mile from the church, stood formerly a free chapel, dedicated to St. Nicholas, founded about the year 1278 by Christiana de Valoines. She endowed it to the amount of 11*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* per annum for the maintenance of two chaplains. The patronage of it was in the lords of the manor. In 1322 the chaplain, Thomas de Shympling, was presented by Sir Thomas Lovyer. At the dissolution of chantries it was valued at 42*s.* per annum. The place where this chapel stood, seems to be a narrow slip on the north side of the road leading towards Netherton, where is a field called Chapel-field, and ruins of buildings have been discovered. The road through this parish from Harlow to Hatfield is remarkably level and pleasant. The rectory, which is not discharged, is valued in the king's books at 13*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* per annum.

HATFIELD REGIS, OR BRADOKE.

THIS name is derived from the Saxon word, which implies a heathy or uncultivated field. It is distinguished from Hatfield Peverell by the additions of Regis and Broad Oak. The name of Regis seems to have been given to it at the Conquest, because it was the king's demesne; that of Bradoke, from a tree of considerable size which grew here in the Saxons' time. There has been another since, which covered a large space of ground; the remains of it appear to be some hundred years old: it was called the Doodle Oak; it grew on the forest near Stane-street, and appears as if fresh branches grew out of the roots as the others decayed.

This parish is situated on the north-east part of the hundred, joining the Rodings and Canfields. It is of great extent, and was the most considerable in the half hundred, if we may judge of the rent which it brought to the sheriff after the Conquest, or if we look at the remains of buildings and foundations for half a mile by the road leading towards Shering and Harlow. This was called Holsted-hill, corrupted from Old Street hill. The return of the chantries in the reign of Edward VI. makes it a very great and populous town, having, by estimation, five hundred inhabitants or houseling people. There was a considerable market here; and the town made such a conspicuous figure on the map, that a company of soldiers have been frequently quartered here, upon a march, who, to their disappointment, found only three ale-

houses, and those very mean. There is little trade, as the place is no great thoroughfare. Here is a fair on the 5th of August, where the county is supplied with their stock of lambs from Norfolk. This noble lordship being royal demefnes, belonged in the Confessor's reign to Earl Harold, afterwards his successor to the throne. It was in the hands of the Conqueror at the survey. In this extensive parish are the following manors: Hatfield-bury, on which the following are dependant; Barrington-hall, Bromeltho-bury, Matching Barnes, Rise Marthes, and the Lea.

Hatfield-bury, the capital manor, remained in the crown till the reign of Henry III. He granted in 1217 this manor to William de Cassingham for his support in the king's service. But the tithes of the manor were granted by Henry I. to the priory of St. Botolph's abbey in Colchester. In 1237 Henry III. granted this and Writtle to Isabella, sister and coheirefs of John Earl of Chester, and wife of Robert Brus, Earl of Annandale; it continued in this family till Robert Brus strenuously asserting his right to the crown of Scotland, was deprived by Edward I. of this and all his other estates. This manor remained in the crown till Edward II. gave it to Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Essex, and to his wife Elizabeth, seventh daughter of Edward I. But Richard de Waleys, who died in 1330, held the third part of the manor of the king. From the Bohuns it came to Thomas de Wodestock, Duke of Gloucester; by marriage he enjoyed it till 1397, when his estates were confiscated. He had two daughters, Anne and Isabel; Anne, married to the Earl of Stafford, slain at Shrewsbury in 1403. In 1421 a partition of the estates of Humphrey, last Earl of Hereford and Essex, being made between King Henry and Anne; the latter had for her share the manor of Hatfield, then valued at 81*l.* 4*s.* 7½*d.* per annum; a forest, a park, and seven woods: her son, Humphrey Stafford, then possessed it: in them it continued till Wolfey procured the death of Edward Stafford, when it came to the crown. In 1547 Edward VI. granted it to Sir Richard Riche, Lord Riche, and his heirs. It continued in this family till the failure of male issue, by the death of Charles Lord Riche, Earl of Warwick, in 1673. The estates were afterwards divided among the several coheirs. Sir Charles Barrington, in right of his mother, Ann, daughter of Robert Riche, third Earl of Warwick, had this manor of Hatfield Broad Oak, with appurtenances.

Barrington-hall stands about a mile and a half north of the church, and was the ancient seat of the Barrington family; but most of it is pulled down, and only a farm-house

farm-house remaining. The manor of Barrington has been all along in that family upon record. They either gave name to, or took their name from the parish of Barrington, in Cambridgeshire. The first mentioned in their pedigree is Sir Odonel de Barynton, Baron of Wagon, descended from a Barenton, who served Emma, Queen of King Ethelred, father of Edward the Confessor, and had the custody of Hatfield forest. He was deprived of his possessions at the Conquest; but his son being servant to Henry I., obtained from him the custody of the forest, &c. This very ancient family has continued in possession of this estate ever since. Sir Charles Barrington, who died in 1715, left it to his sister Anne, wife of Charles Shales, Esq., for life, and to her children after her. Upon her death the eldest son, Riche Barrington Shales, Esq., succeeded; and at his death, John Barrington Shales, Esq.

The priory is part of the Barrington estate in this parish, and was for a considerable time their seat. It stood at the east end of the church, and was a large timber building, but has been some time demolished, and the site of it converted into gardens. It was founded in 1135 by Alberic De Vere, second of the name, and father to Alberic, first Earl of Oxford, for black monks. He dedicated it to God, St. Mary, and St. Melanius Redonensis. This Melanius was a British saint, to whom a famous abbey was dedicated at Rennes in Bretagne. The founder probably made it a cell to that foreign abbey. But Alberic the third, or his son Robert, who was buried in it, might increase the revenues, and make it an independent priory. The founder endowed it with lands in this parish. They had also a manor here, called the Priors, with demesnes, and part of the tithes of this parish, besides the rectories or impropriate tithes of many places. The whole revenues of this priory were valued at the suppression at 157*l.* 3*s.* 2½*d.* The number of monks in it were nine. The patronage was all along in the noble family of De Vere, Earls of Oxford: but they did not obtain it at the dissolution, as they did most of the other things of their foundation: for the site and revenues of this were granted by Henry VIII. and Queen Mary to Thomas Noke, who died possessed of them in 1559. Robert Noke, his son, had licence in 1564 to sell them to Thomas Barrington, Esq. The family then quitted Barrington-hall, and removed here, making it the place of their residence till some part of the last century. In Charles Barrington's time it was taken down by the workmen contrary to his orders; after which he came and lived in a small house of Sir Richard Everard's at Great Waltham. His successor, Charles Shales, Esq., repaired a house almost against the site of the priory. His son, John Barrington Shales, has built an elegant house

north of the site of the priory, and enclosed it in a park. Barrington's fee took its name from Sir William de Barenton, and formerly belonged to a family named Blamster.

Bromefho-bury signifies Broom-hill capital mansion. It stands about a mile east of the church near High Roding. It is a hamlet belonging to the parish, and was for many years included in the capital manor of Hatfield. In 1303 it was possessed by Robert de Brus, who resided there. Humphrey Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, held it at the time of his death in 1460. It attended the fate of that unfortunate family, and fell to the crown. In 1544 Henry VIII. granted it, with some land, to Thomas Joffelyn. Edward VI. made a grant of it afterwards to Sir Richard Riche. But this grant was void; for the Joffelyn family remained in possession of it, and still continued. This old seat is moated round, as the castles and castellated mansions were of most lords of the manors, on purpose to receive and secure tenants' cattle, upon an enemy's approach, till the beacons could be fired and the country raised.

The manor of Ballingtons and Rife. This is now generally called the Rye, and the mansion-house is about a mile west-north-west from the church. Rife or Rifcs Marfes has for some time gone with Ballingtons, which lies nearer to the forest gate; these together are called a manor, though held of the great manor of Hatfield. The name of Marfes seems to come from Ralph de Marci, who held lands here at the survey. These are the two parcels entered in Domesday-book, under the names of Belindune and Siriceslea. In the Confessor's reign the former belonged to Aluric, and Siriceslea to Harold. At the time of the survey Peter de Valoines held them; after that the owners are not known. Edward More and Ralph Morrice recovered these manors against William Towse and Roger Marfield. Richard Francke, Esq., Sheriff of Essex in 1602, held them of Sir Francis Barrington. Sir Leventhorp Francke, Knight, sold this estate to Benjamin Woodroffe, D.D.: of his heirs Geoffrey Stane, Esq., purchased it, and improved the house by gardens and out-houses into a very convenient seat: it was built after the manner of Pishobury and Hamels, in Hertfordshire, by Inigo Jones, but is something less than either of them. Mr. Stane had only one daughter, married to Richard Chamberlayne, Esq., Sheriff of Essex in 1721, on whose son, Stane Chamberlayne, he settled the estate.

The Lea stands about a mile and half south-west of the church. It is reasonably supposed to be what in Domesday-book is called Bineslea, from whence the name of Lea came; it was then held by Peter de Valoines, but had belonged in the Confessor's

feffor's reign to Uluuin: it is a reputed manor, dependant on that of Hatfield. There is no account of its owners till the reign of Edward IV. Thomas Urfwick, who died in 1479, held a messuage called Le Lee, or Lee Hall, 240 acres of arable, 18 of meadow, 37 of pasture, 12 of wood, and 50*l.* rent in the parishes of Hatfield Regis, Hallingbury, and Matching, of the Duchefs of Buckingham. The estate appears at one time to have gone with Rife and Ballingtons. Some years since the Lea was in the possession of Mr. Davenport. He left it to his grandson, Mr. Charles Hoy, who sold it to Geffrey Stane, Esq., and it was settled with Rife on his grandson, Stane Chamberlayne, Esq.

Downe-hall is almost three miles west of the church, and is so named from the Saxon word, signifying hill. It is delightfully situated on rising ground above the stream that runs through Hatfield town, having a fine prospect over the adjacent country. Some of the lands within it are belonging to the manor of Ovesham-hall, and held of it by copy of court roll. This is with great reason supposed to be what in Domesday-book is called Belcamp, and had belonged in the Confessor's reign to Uluuin. At the survey it belonged to Alberic De Vere, whose successor made it part of the endowment of Hatfield priory. In the account of its revenues, a short time before the suppression, the farm of Downe-hall was let for 6*l.* a year. In 1540 Downe-hall was granted by Henry VIII. to William Berners, Walter Farre, and William Glasscock. Farre alienated his part to Glasscock. He died in 1579. By marriage this share came to John Ballett, Esq. Robert Harley, Earl of Oxford, purchased the estate of John Ballett, Esq., and gave it for life to Matthew Prior, the poet. After his death, in 1721, the Earl improved it much by plantations, and cutting vistas through a wood near it, and sometimes made it a place of his retirement. It was some years ago purchased by William Selwyn, Esq.

The manor of Matching Barnes, with Brent-hall, lies upon the borders of Matching, about three miles south of the church. It was held in the Confessor's time by Godric, a freeman. At the survey it belonged to the priory of St. Valery, and was called Machekes. The lands belonging to this priory alien were granted away by Henry VIII. after the suppression. Nicholas Barrington is the first person found in possession of it afterwards in 1488. It descended with the rest in the Barrington family. It was doubtful whether this manor was entirely in Hatfield, or partly in Matching.

Lancasters is a farm, the house of which is situated about a mile and a quarter south

south from the church; and belongs also to John Barrington, Esq. It took the name from a family, surnamed Lancaster, who were here in the reign of Henry VI.

Branktrees, about three quarters of a mile north-east from the church, was also denominated from a family of this surname, an heiress of which brought it to the Josselyns of Hide-hall. It has no court kept.

Hatfield forest, chace, and park; Bennington-green, Busby-end, Broadgates, Waters, Perfe, William, Skringills, and Friers, are also estates here.

The forest and chace formed anciently part of the king's demesnes, who granted the custody of them to some of the Barringtons. The whole contains above 2000 acres of land. Here are some customs between the Barringtons and Houblons in this forest. Some charitable donations here are given to the poor in lands, amounting to about 19*l.* per annum, to the church about 4*l.* Here are five alms-houses. John Gobert, Esq., of Coventry, by will in 1623 gave 600*l.* to be disposed in exhibitions: for two scholars at Oxford and Cambridge of 8*l.* a year each, to the poor of South Kelworth 2*l.* per annum, to the poor of Somerley in Leicestershire 2*l.*, and to the poor of Hatfield Broad Oak 4*l.* per annum; the residue to be distributed among poor preaching ministers, and to their widows and children. The manor of Keers, in Aythorp Roding, was purchased with this money, and settled for the uses appointed. The farm of Branktrees in this parish was purchased by Mr. Samuel Lowe, rector of High Laver, who died in 1709, being 89*l.* a year. and settled for ever on the corporation of the sons of the clergy, and society for propagating religion in America.

The church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, is situated in a conspicuous part of the parish, to which the priory adjoined. It is a very handsome lofty building, having a steeple of stone at the west end, with a peal of six bells. The church has a south aisle, the chancel a south and north aisle, with a vestry on each side: it is the best wainscotted church in the county, for the support of which lands are given by various persons. The tithes of the capital manor, or royal lordship, in this parish, were given by Henry I. to the priory of St. Botolph, in Colchester. Alberic De Vere gave to his foundation here all the tithes which he had in the parish. The monks being willing to claim more than they were possessed of, and disputing with the priory of Hatfield, they came to the agreement, that all the tithes of the king's lordship, and other places in the parish, should be assigned perpetually to the prior and convent of Hatfield Regis and their successors, they paying to the prior and convent

of St. Botolph and their successors the yearly sum of 3*l.* in lieu of tithes. The composition was confirmed by Bishop Stokesley in 1532. The prior and convent here having the great tithes appropriated to them, supplied the cure by their own members till a vicarage was ordained. After the suppression in 1546 Henry VIII. granted to the master, fellows, and scholars of Trinity College, Cambridge, of his foundation, this rectory and church of Hatfield, with appurtenances: for the best part of an hundred years it was so small that it was not worth the presentation and institution, but went by way of sequestration; the neat profits of it being only 6*l.* per annum, besides the surplice fees. Towards the end of the seventeenth century Dr. Montague, master of Trinity College, and the fellows, upon granting a new lease to the rectory, made an augmentation to the vicarage of 24*l.* per annum. There being no vicarage-house in the time of Sir Charles Barrington, a house belonging to Sir Charles having a small spot of garden, anciently belonging to the vicar, was by Sir Charles given to Mr. Stirling, then vicar. Upon this Mr. Stirling laid out 150*l.*, but neglecting to get a settlement made, upon the death of the donor nothing of a conveyance appeared. A chantry was founded in this church by Walter Percival and Robert Hanbury. The site of it was in Bread-street, leading to High Roding. At the suppression of chantries it was valued at 7*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* It was endowed with a messuage and other lands in the parish, which have since been variously dispersed. This large town and parish is rated to the land-tax at 441*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.* In 1568 Queen Elizabeth granted a tenement, called the Guild-house, to Edward Grimston and William Le Grys, and in 1571 to Richard Hill and William Jones. The rectory is discharged, and is valued in the king's books at 47*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.*

LITTLE HALLINGBURY.

THIS parish lies south of another in this hundred, called Great Hallingbury, and is also called Hallingbury Nevill and Hallingbury Bouchier, from the two noble families who were in possession of it some time. In the Confessor's reign it belonged to freemen. At the time of the survey it belonged to Geffrey de Mandeville. There are two manors in this parish, Little Hallingbury-hall and Monkbury.

Little Hallingbury-hall stands about a mile south-east from the church. Sweyn had it, and after him his descendant Henry de Essex, who forfeited his estates on
account

account of his cowardice in the battle with the Welch in 1163. Henry II. then gave the manor to Henry de Cornhill, who had a park at Hallingbury. His daughter and heiress brought it in marriage to Hugh de Neville, who died in 1222. In 1372 from this family it came to Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Essex; it after that passed, like the other estates, to Thomas of Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester. The estates were afterwards divided between Henry V. and the Countess of Stafford. This fell to her share, and was valued at 27*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* per annum. Henry Bourchier, Earl of Essex, had it from her. Anne, a descendant, married in 1541 Sir William Parr, Marquis of Kendal, created afterwards Earl of Essex and Marquis of Northampton; she died in 1570: at her death this estate was described as 20 messuages, 10 cottages, 20 gardens, 20 orchards, a park, water-mill, 1000 acres of arable, 100 of meadow, 500 of pasture, 60 of heath and furze, 10 of wood, and 40*s.* rent in this parish of Hatfield Broad Oak, and the advowson of the church. Sir Walter Devereux was her heir; he was Lord Ferrars of Chartley, and Earl of Essex afterwards. Robert Devereux, his son and heir, the unfortunate Earl of Essex, was beheaded in 1602; but several years before, in 1588, he, with Richard Broughton and Thomas Crompton, Esqrs., alienated this manor of Hallingbury Bourchier and the advowson of the church to William Bawtree, Gent.; Robert Aske, citizen and goldsmith, of London; and John Wright, Gent. These three trustees, by licence, alienated the estate to Thomas Sutton, Esq., who settled it upon his foundation of the Charter-house, London. His first intention was to build his hospital here; but he very properly altered it, and fixed it where it is. Little Hallingbury then was valued at leasehold rents 267*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, free and customary 10*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* The rector and other land-owners maintain their fences against the lord.

Monkbury, a short distance from the church, appears to be the manor which Esger possessed in Edward the Confessor's reign, and was held at the survey by Geoffrey de Mandeville and his tenants. The mill, which was divided here between the lord of the manor and Geoffrey de Mandeville, stood very probably where the silk-mill now is, near which the lands of Sutton's hospital, and those formerly belonging to Bermondsey monastery, join. Martel, tenant to Mandeville, gave this manor, with his consent, to the Bermondsey monks, in Southwark. Since the dissolution these lands have been divided into several different hands. Monkbury belonged to the Rev. Robert Taylor, who died in 1719: he gave it and other lands to

William Taylor, Gent., of Hadham. There are a few other small estates here. The parish is rated to the land-tax at 636/. A mill has been lately employed here in twisting and winding silk, invented by Mr. William Aldersey. It was built upon the model of the engine at Derby. Near the church are houses for three dwellers, designed at first for the entertainment of persons when married, either for dinner or supper.

The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and is of one pace with the chancel. A square tower, with a spire shingled, contains three bells. The rectory has been always appendant to the manor. It is not discharged, and is valued in the king's books at 15/. per annum.

Hallingbury-place is a spacious edifice, situated on an eminence in an extensive park, and now the seat of John Houblon, Esq. The grounds have been much improved, and the whole rendered a desirable residence. The manor was purchased by the Houblon family in the year 1727, under an act of parliament which vested the manors of Great Hallingbury, Wallbury, and Monkbury, in trustees for the discharge of the debts of Sir Edward Turner, the late possessor of them.

HERTFORDSHIRE.

BROGHIN OR BRAUGHING HUNDRED.

THIS hundred contains thirteen parishes and hamlets, divided between two high constables; one has the division of Bishop's Stortford, Thorley, Sawbridge-worth, Golston, Eastwick, Stansted, Hodefsden, and Wideford; the other has the towns of Ware, Thunderidge, Standon, Puckeridge, Braughing, and Westmill.

The hundred is bounded on the north by Edwintre hundred, on the west by part of Broadwater hundred and that of Hartford, on the east by part of Clavering and Harlow, and on the south by the hundred of Waltham and that of Hartford. It is situated on the river Rib, about a mile distant to the north from Standon: it was called Brooking in the Saxons' time from the river and meadows there; but in the time of the Conquest it was called Brackinges.

BRAUGHING.

IN the Saxons' time Eustace Earl of Boulogne held in this hundred the manor of Brachings; it was then worth 16*l.* per annum: two thanes held it at the time of the Confessor, when it was worth 20*l.* Earl Eustace having joined with Odo Bishop of Bayeux to destroy William Rufus, his estates were forfeited, and this among the rest; his eyes were put out, and his members cut off. Thus the manor came to the crown. King Stephen out of it granted to the canons of the Holy Trinity in London 5*l.* worth of land of this estate; he also granted a market here. Queen Maud confirmed it to them, with the grant of 5*l.*, and added 6*l.* more, which is that part on which this church is built, and to which the market belongs. Henry III. confirmed these lands to the church of the Holy Trinity. The estate continued in this priory till the dissolution, when Henry VIII. seized it. That king granted it, with the appurtenances and tithes which belonged to the rectory, and the advowson of the vicarage of the parish church of Braughing and appurtenances, excepting the manor of Berkesdon, which belonged to the priory, to Thomas Lord Audley, Sir Henry Parker, and Sir

Thomas Barnardiston, Knights, and others. From Lord Audley this manor came to Thomas Duke of Norfolk, in right of Margaret his wife. Thomas Lord Howard sold it to John Steward, Esq. ; on the death of Humphrey Steward, one moiety of it came to his son, who was member of parliament for Christ Church in Charles II.'s time ; and he sold it to William Delawood, merchant, of London : the other moiety, which Francis Steward held, came to his son ; and at his death it was sold to William Delawood, who, at his decease, gave it to Sir James Houblon, in whose family it remains. The vicarage of Braughing is not discharged, and is valued in the king's books at 19*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* per annum. The church is a handsome building.

The manor of Gatesbury, Uphall, and Masters. The manor of Gatesbury was in the possession of John de Gatesbury ; he gave to the church of St. John the Baptist, of Holywell, in London, this manor, and the land called Gatesbury Frid ; and Jordaine de Zuine, the lord of whom he held it, confirmed the grant. It was in this family in Henry V.'s reign, when the eldest daughter of John de Gatesbury married Henry Elvedon, of Ging Mountney, in Essex ; his son, in the reign of Edward IV., held the moiety of this manor, which he forfeited to the crown by an outlawry ; this moiety was valued then at 15*l.* per annum. The king granted it to John Sturgeon, Esq. John Lavenhan, who was possessed of the other moiety in right of his wife, sister of the eldest, married to Henry Elvedon, had issue one daughter, married to John Joslyn in Henry VI.'s reign, who, in Edward IV.'s time, was attainted of high treason ; upon which his tenements in Westmill, called Masters, his moiety of the manor of Gatesbury, and his estate in Uphall, were seized by the king. Edward IV. granted this moiety to Nicholas Harpsfield, Esq. Upon a petition to the king, Edward Joslyn was restored to his father's moiety of the manor ; he held them till Henry VII.'s reign, when he disposed of them to Humphrey Fitz-Herbert and heirs, who at that time was possessed of the other moiety in right of his wife, daughter and heiress of Henry Elvedon ; for John Sturgeon did not hold his part long, but restored it again to Elvedon. Humphrey Fitz-Herbert held the manors of Gatesbury and Masters by one knight's fee, in Henry VII.'s reign, of John Earl of Orford. After the death of Humphrey and his wife, they came to the possession of Sir John Williams in Edward VI.'s reign : he or his successor sold these and other manors to Thomas Hanchet, Esq., who also held them of the Earl of Orford of his manor of Stansted. Thomas, his son, had them in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. He married Julian Pulter, widow of John Pulter, Esq., and conveyed the manor of

Masters to her for life, but afterwards sold it to John Brograve, Esq., of Gray's Inn, attorney-general of the dutchy of Lancaster, in Queen Elizabeth's reign: he purchased several dispersed parcels of lands here, and built a neat brick edifice, with four turrets to the corners, situated near a grove upon a dry hill, from whence there is a pleasant prospect to the east. He united the manor of Milklays to that of Masters, and held courts here under the name of Hamels, alias Milkly, and Hamels cum Masters; which usage has been ever since observed. Upon him King James I. conferred the honour of knighthood. Simeon, his son, succeeded him. From the Brograves Hamels came to Ralph Freeman, Esq., by purchase; and from him it descended to the Earl of Hardwicke, who sold it to the late John Mellish, Esq. The grounds are beautiful, and the old house much improved.

Thomas Hanchet, who was lord of the manors of Gatesbury and Uphall, sold them to John Stone, Esq., of the Inner Temple, and died, leaving his son Richard his heir, who succeeded him, was knighted, and sold the manor to Robert Dicer, citizen of London, constituted sheriff of the county in 1659, and made a baronet in 1662 in the 13th year of Charles II.'s reign. Upon his death these manors came to his son and heir, Sir Robert.

The manor of Cokehamstead, in the Conqueror's time, was in Eustace of Boulogne, and was worth 7*l.* per annum. From that family it passed to the crown, where it probably remained till it came to the family of Baard. In the reign of Henry III. Sir John Baard possessed it, who married the daughter of Richard Gatesbury, who gave him and his heirs a meadow, called Gatesbury Meadow, containing 16 acres, in this parish, with his daughter in marriage, by whom he had issue one daughter, his heiress, married to John de la Lea, through whose hands this manor since passed, till it came to Simeon Brograve, Esq., who gave it to Edward Brograve, his fourth son and heir; and in this family it continued.

There are some charitable donations in the parish, which together amount to a considerable sum, though small in general, and given by various benefactors.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD.

MAURICE, Bishop of London, and his successors, received from William the Conqueror the town and castle of Bishop's Stortford, built by that king upon a fine
artificial

artificial mount, made very steep after the mode of the Norman buildings of that age, between the town and Hockerill upon the east side of the river Stort; and in order that the bishop might be better able to maintain it, he granted him several lands and manors. It was demolished by King John, because the Bishop of London was one of the three prelates who published the pope's interdiction against the kingdom; but when he restored the bishops to their sees, he suffered the Bishop of London to resume his possession, which his successors have ever since enjoyed. In the time of Queen Mary, Bishop Bonner made use of the prison adjoining to the castle, which was built of wood and brick, and was a deep dungeon, to confine the convicted Protestants. This prison, which consisted of several rooms, was sold about the year 1649, and the purchasers pulled it down, with the bridge, and erected in its place an inn.

The town of Bishop's Stortford stands in a dry soil and healthy air, and is about 28 miles distant from London. King John made it a corporation town, and it formerly sent members to parliament. The Bishop of London appoints a bailiff here for what is called his liberty, and to him all the sheriff's warrants are directed. The bishop holds his court leet and baron at the manor of Padmore, situated at the north end of the town. This is well-built and considerable, and is a thoroughfare to Cambridge, Newmarket, &c. It consists of four streets in the form of a cross pointing to the four quarters. Here are two alms-houses and a grammar-school; the latter was built about the end of the seventeenth century by the contributions of the neighbouring gentry of this county and that of Essex. In stands in the high street on arches, under which are shops and a market. It is a square building. Here is a weekly market on Thursdays, and three annual fairs, that is, on Holy Thursday, Tuesday after Trinity Sunday, and the 10th of October, all for horses and black cattle.

The manor of the rectory was formerly granted to the precentors of St. Paul, who have been successively lords of it.

The manor of Picots was so called from a person of the name of Picot, who was lord of it; since that it came to the possession of — Hawkins; it continued in this family for some time, till by marriage of Elizabeth, daughter of — Withered, who died in 1697, the manor descended to Mary, wife of Robert Dawks; Anne, the daughter of Elizabeth, wife of John Barrington, to whom they gave their part; and Susan, the wife of William Layer, who then possessed it.

The

The manor of Padmore is situated north of this town, as before mentioned.

The rectory and vicarage of Bishop's Stortford are appropriated to the perpetual use of the precentors of St. Paul, London, who allow all the tithes of a great farm, called the Park, to the vicar of the parish church; the residue of the parsonage has been determined to the Denny family. The vicarage was rated in the king's books at 12*l.* per annum. Mr. William Cowper, vicar, in 1686, built a house on the south side of the churchyard. The church is erected on a hill near the middle of the town in the deanery of Braughing, in the diocese of London, and is dedicated to St. Michael the Archangel. It consists of a body and one large aisle on each side, with a chancel at the west end; it has a tower and eight bells, with a spire about 50 feet high. The church had an organ so long since as the reign of Henry VII., and is a very ancient structure. Here are some benefactions to the parish. In 1584 Dr. Harvey gave 10*l.* to the poor of this town, and 6*l.* to the churchwardens of this town and of Littlebury, in Essex: he was master of Trinity College, Cambridge. Rowland Eliot, Gent., gave 40*l.* per annum for ever to the poor out of his manor of Walkers, in Farnham, Essex. In 1597 Mrs. Margaret Deane, of London, gave 20*l.* to the poor, and 5*l.* per annum towards erecting a free-school here. The others are small benefactions. Mr. Leigh gave a library for the use of the school. The trade of this town has been much increased of late from a canal which was finished here in 1769. The number of inhabitants in 1800 was 2305.

THORNLEY, OR THORLEY.

THIS parish is situated about two miles distance from Bishop's Stortford on the west, and stands upon a hill: it was called Thornley from the abundance of thorns and briars which formerly over-run those grounds. William the Conqueror gave it to Geoffrey de Mandeville when he subdued this kingdom. It was at that time worth 8*l.* a year. In the time of the Confessor it was worth 10*l.* William Bishop of London bought it of King William, and in that bishopric it now remains. This manor passed with that of Sayesbury, until it came into the possession of Richard de Thorley, who held it in the time of Henry III.; and in all probability took his name from this place. His son, in Edward I.'s reign, granted it to William, son of Gerbredge, of Germuth; he was a vintner, and gained his wealth by selling wine at Yarmouth,

Yarmouth, in Norfolk. In the time of Henry IV. the manor came into the possession of John Leventhorp, Esq. Sir Thomas Leventhorp, Bart., released it to William Kiffin, Esq., of London, and his heirs, who, in the reign of James II., was sheriff, and afterwards alderman of London. William and Mary Kiffin in 1691 conveyed the manor to John Billers, citizen and haberdasher, of London. Thorley-hall is now the seat of — Grant, Esq.

The rectory was valued in the reign of Henry VIII. in the king's books at 16*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, of which the bishops of London are patrons. The church stands in the middle of the parish, in the deanery of Braughing, in the diocese of London, having a square tower at the west end, in which are four bells, with a neat spire erected upon it.



S A W B R I D G E W O R T H.

THIS town is situated on the river Stort, thirty miles from London, and about three miles distant from Thorley, on the south, upon a dry hill of gravel. It derived the name from the Say family, lords of the manor here, the word bridge, and worth, which in the Saxon signifies a mansion or dwelling-house. When the Conqueror subdued the realm, he gave this estate to Geoffrey de Mandeville: it was then worth 50*l.* a year, and in the Confessor's reign 60*l.* His brother, created by Henry II. Earl of Essex, at his death, gave the church of Sawbridgeworth to the monks of Westminster. Beatrice, his aunt, was his heiress; she was married to William de Say, who had a villa here, called Sayesbury; his lands were taken from him at the rebellion of the barons, but restored to him at his being readmitted into the king's favour. It continued in this family, with little variation, till Sir William Say, in Henry VII.'s reign, settled it at his death on his daughter Mary, married to Henry Bouchier, Earl of Essex. He had issue by his wife an only daughter, called Anne, married to Sir William Parre, Knight, Lord Parre of Kendal, afterwards Earl of Essex and Marquis of Northampton. Upon his arraignment Queen Elizabeth reserved this manor of Sayesbury. King Philip and Queen Mary granted it for forty years to Sir Robert Rochester and Sir Edward Waldegrave, Knights. After this the manor continued in the crown till James I. granted it to Sir Lionel Cranfield and his heirs; he was afterwards created Lord Cranfield and Earl of Middlesex. King Charles

Charles I. granted the manor to Arthur Brett, Esq., of London, and Nicholas Horman, Esq., of Chelsea, and the park called Sayesbury Park. The Earl of Middlesex, Arthur Brett, Esq., and Nicholas Horman, in the same reign, granted it, with appurtenances, to Thomas Hewitt, Esq., of St. Martin's, in the county of Middlesex, and his heirs. He was the eldest son of Sir William Hewitt, Knight and Baronet, and Sheriff for the county. It continued in this family till 1662. At the death of Sir Thomas Hewitt, who devised it to his wife, her son inherited next; and at his death it came to his sister, Lady Crofts Read. After this the Freemans had it; and from them it came to the Earls of Hardwicke.

The manor of Pishobury was granted by William Say, lord of the manor of Sayesbury, to Warren Fitz-Gerald, an eminent man in the reign of King John, whose two sons divided this estate between them: Warren, the eldest, gave his part, called Sawbridgeworth, to the abbot and monks of the church of St. Edmund's-bury; and Henry, the other son, gave part of his share to the abbots and monks of St. Mary's church, in Reading; but reserved the other part, called Pisho, to himself. This name was taken from a Roman captain of the name of Piso, who resided here when the Romans governed the island. In the reign of Edward II. this manor was in the possession of Robert de Infula Monte, who held it of Sir Geoffrey Say of his manor of Sayesbury. Robert, his son and heir, in Edward III.'s reign, conveyed it to Richard Lord Scroop, Baron of Bolton, who founded a chantry here within his castle of Bolton, which he endowed with a rent of 43*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* per annum; 33*l.* 6*s.* of it was paid out of his manor of Pishobury. He died in Henry IV.'s reign, and demised the estate, consisting of houses, an orchard, 58 acres of pasture, 36 acres of meadow, and 225½ acres of land, in the whole containing 319 acres, to John Chauncy, Esq., for a long term of years, reserving the rent of 12*l.* to be paid to Richard Scroop and his heirs. Upon the death of Richard Lord Scroop it descended to Roger, his son and heir. John Scroop, in Henry VIII.'s reign, sold this manor to trustees for the use of the king. The heirs of John Chauncy continued here, and held the site of the manor under the crown until the 23d year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when Henry Chauncy, then lessee, falling under the displeasure of Lord Hunsdon, favourite of the queen, he prevailed on her majesty to sell the manor to Walter Mildmay, Esq., who was afterwards knighted and sheriff of the county of Suffolk. He built a very neat and fair pile for the manor-house upon a rising ground, in the vale near the river Stort. He died in 1606.

Sir Thomas Mildmay sold it, in the reign of James I., to Lionel Cranfield, Esq. Charles I. granted it to Arthur Brett, Esq., Nicholas Harman, and their heirs. It went with them as the last, and was next in the possession of Mrs. Mills. The house and gardens are very pleasant.

The manor of Tednambury was part of the manor of Sayesbury, which Warren, the son of Gerald, gave by the name of Sawbridgeworth to St. Edmund, from which church it is now by contraction called Tednambury; and by a deed in 1281 one carucate of land in this parish, in the hamlet of Tednambury, was appropriated to the use of the cellarer of the monastery of St. Edmund, to feed the convent, and to entertain strangers, &c. The abbots and monks of this church possessed the manor till the dissolution, when it came to the crown; and from thence was conveyed to Henry Parker, Lord Morley; and from him to Lord Mounteagle. In 1659 Thomas Lindsey purchased it of Thomas Martin, Esq., the latter of whom came to it by marriage. This manor has jurisdiction of a court leet, where one constable is chosen for that hamlet, and all other officers belonging to the leet, and also of a court baron where the tenants pay admission.

The manor of Sawbridgeworth, alias Groves, was another part of the manor of Sayesbury, which Henry, one of the sons of Gerald, gave to the church of Reading, in Berkshire. That church held it till the dissolution, when it came to the crown. King Henry VIII. granted to William Goodwin, Esq., of Writtle, in the county of Essex, this manor, with appurtenances, lately belonging to the abbot of Reading monastery. He sold it to Thomas Gooday and his heirs, of the county of Essex; the latter granted it to Robert Hirst and his heirs; his son and heir sold it to John Duke, yeoman, who died seised of it, leaving a son, Robert, who, in the fourth year of the reign of Charles I., granted it to his son, John Duke, M.A., and rector of High Roding, in Essex. In the reign of Charles II. it was conveyed by his mother, who had purchased it of her son, to Thomas Rogers, of Hunsdon, in this county; his son granted it to Edmund Godwin, of Eastwick, in this county, high sheriff in 1696.

The manor of Marthams, alias Shingey-hall, was the land which was held of Geoffrey de Mandeville, and afterwards called Marthams, from the family who were owners of it, till it was sold to John Leventhorp, Esq., of Yorkshire, about the fifteenth year of King Richard II.: he was member of parliament for the county. It continued in this family till about the middle of the seventeenth century, when it

came to the family of Cooke upon the death of Sir Thomas Leventhorp, who was killed by a kick from a horse, leaving Mary, his heiress and daughter, who married John Cooke, Esq., of Melbourne, in Derbyshire.

The manor of Hide-hall is situated upon a hill in the east side of this parish near the river: it was included, in the Conqueror's time, among the lands of Geoffrey de Mandeville. It took the name from the Hide family, who succeeded the Mandevilles; and in Henry III.'s reign it passed from them to the Josselyns: Thomas Josselyn, by marriage with Maud, daughter and coheiress of Sir Thomas Hide, came into possession of it, and with that family it continued. It is now the property of the Earl of Roden.

William de Mandeville, lord of the manor of Sayesbury, gave the rectory of the church of Sawbridgeworth to the monks of Westminster, who demised it to John Chauncy for a term of years. In this family it continued for some length of time, till Alexander Chauncy sold his share, which was a moiety, to Patrick Cary, who conveyed it to — Kearsley and — Leigh. William, another son of John Chauncy, had the other moiety. The vicarage was rated in the king's books at the yearly value of 16*l.* 18*s.* 2*d.*, of which the bishops of London are patrons. The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, from whom it is called Great St. Mary's; it stands at the east end of the town on the brow of a hill near the manor-house of Sayesbury. It is in the deanery of Braughing, in the diocese of London; and contains three aisles and a chancel at the east end, and a large tower at the west, square, with a spire. There are a few charitable donations.

GOLDESTON, GELDESTON, OR GILSTON.

THIS parish was part of the possessions of Geoffrey de Mandeville, and is about three miles distant from Sawbridgeworth south-west. In all probability it was waste ground at the time of the Conquest. He erected the church, and made it parochial; for he had the tithes, presented to the living, and gave the church to the abbey of Walden, which monastery he founded himself. It came afterwards to William de Albinus, whose only daughter married Lord Roos of Helmesley, in Holderness, in the county of York: they had issue William Lord Roos, and Emeline, married to William de Thany. He gave his messuage, by the name of Great Goldestone,

stone, now called Overhall, to this daughter, and the messuage of Little Goldeston, now called Netherhall, to his son Robert Lord Roos, who succeeded him. He was knighted by King Henry III. Richard de Thany conveyed this manor to Ralph Giffard; William, his son, then possessed the manors, both of Great and Little Goldeston. The latter manor was in the hands of Geffrey de Brockhole, and then in the Chauncy family. From this family it came to Sir John Gore, Knight, Alderman of London. Sir Humphrey Gore adorned the house, and made a park to it. From the Gores it came to William Plomer, Esq., member for the county, whose residence is Gilston park.

The rectory of the church was valued in the king's books at 10*l.* 3*s.* per annum, of which the Bishops of London are patrons.

E A S T W I C K.

THIS parish is situated about a mile from Goldeston, on the road leading from thence to London towards the south, and derives its name from its situation upon the east part of this county on the river Stort, wick signifying a place upon a river, or the sea shore. In the time of the Conqueror this place belonged to Geffrey de Beck, and is so recorded in Domesday-book. In the Confessor's reign it was worth 4*l.* In the time of Henry I. Robert de Weneings held one hide here; and in the reign of John, Simon Beauchamp, of Bedford, gave the chapel of Eastwick to the abbey of Chicksand, which was a monastery of his mother's foundation. Baldwin, son of Gislebert, gave this church for the support of the brethren then in the church of Brune. The manor came to the crown, and Henry III. granted it to Richard Tany, who was sheriff of the counties of Essex and Hertford. His son established a market here on every Tuesday, and a fair to continue for three days on the vigils and the morrow of St. Botolph. In Richard II.'s reign it was in William Doreward; from his son it passed to Ralph Hull by purchase, who conveyed it to Roger Spice and his wife and heirs for ever; from them it came to Sir John Oldhall, Knight, who afterwards made it over to the Bishop of Durham and others. The manor came afterwards to the crown, and Richard III., by way of exchange, granted it to Sir William Stanley, Knight. King Henry VII. granted to the Archbishop of Canterbury and others this manor. In Henry VIII.'s reign the manor was annexed to the

dutchy of Lancaster; and Queen Elizabeth granted it to Henry Cary. It remained in the family of Cary, Earls of Dover, till the year 1641, when this earl and his son sold it, with the advowson, to Sir John Gore, of Gilston.

The rectory was valued in the king's books at 7*l.* 11*s.* 7*d.*, and the lords of the manor have been successively patrons of it. The church is situated near the town, in the deanery of Braughing, in the diocese of London, built in the form of a cross, and contains an aisle, with a small tower and spire.

STANSTED ABBOT.

THIS parish was so called from the gravelly soil where it is situated, as the meaning of the Saxon word imports; and when Michael de Wauncy gave part of it to the abbots and monks of Waltham, it received the name of Stansted Abbot. The church stands about two miles distant from Eastwick towards the south upon the road. The town stands in the vale, which anciently was a place of trade, and a borough belonging to Ralph, brother of Ilgar. It was worth 17*l.* a year. It stood on the river Lea. In the time of William Rufus and Henry I. Roger de Wauncy was lord of the borough, and gave the church of Stansted to the priory of Merton and the canons, who were of the Augustine order; but shortly after, the manor came to Michael de Wauncy, who sold the moiety to King Henry II., and he gave the other half to the canons of the church of Waltham. It remained in this monastery till the dissolution, when it came to the crown, and Henry VIII. granted it to Philip Paris, Esq.; from him it passed to Edward Baesh, Esq., victualler of the navy. He died in Elizabeth's reign. Ralph, his son, succeeded him, and erected a chapel on the north side of the chancel in 1578. Edward, his brother, succeeding, conveyed it to George Earl of Rutland and others for the use of Sir Edward Baesh and his heirs. He died in 1653, and leaving no issue, the manor came to Ralph Baesh, Esq., who, being involved in his circumstances, sold part of his estates. His son sold this manor to Edmund Field, Esq., M. P., of Marden, in this county.

The manor of Rye was by King Henry VI. permitted to be imparked; it was otherwise called the Isle of Rye, in Stansted Abbot. Andrew Ogard and others built a castle here of lime and stone, with battlements, &c. About the latter end of the reign

reign of Henry VIII. Edward Baesh, Esq., purchased it, and it has since passed with him as the manor of Stansted till it came to Edmund Field, Esq.

The vicarage was rated in the king's books at the yearly value of 10*l.*, and the lords of the manor are the patrons. The church stands on a hill near the manor-house, in the deanery of Braughing, in the diocese of London. A chapel was erected on the north side of the church by Ralph Baesh, Esq. At the west end of the church is a square tower, and a short spire erected upon it. Sir Edward Baesh built an alms-house, and endowed it with 25*l.* per annum, and 2*s.* a week to the six poor women who inhabited it. He also gave 20*l.* a year for the maintenance of a school-master to teach in a free grammar-school here, and made the lords of the manor perpetual patrons. He built a house for the vicar, and laid two acres of land to it, and gave a cottage for the use of the clerk of the church for the time being.

HONESDON, OR HUNSDON.

THIS parish derives its name from the hill where the town is erected, about two miles north of Stansted, which was doubtless part of that manor in the Conqueror's time. Richard Earl of Hertford, eldest son of Gilbert de Tonebridge, was in possession of it after Aluvin, who held it immediately subsequent to the Conquest. In King John's reign it belonged to Sir Walter de Montgomery, Knight, Earl of Ferrars. In Edward I.'s reign it was in the possession of John Eugaine. It continued in this family till the death of Thomas, in Edward III.'s time, when the estate came to his sister Joice, wife of John Goldington, who held it in her right. Robert, their son, sold it to Sir William Oldhall, Knight, who was attainted of high treason for adhering to the Duke of York. His son was, however, restored to his estates upon the accession of Edward IV.; and he built a house after the manner of a castle, which building cost 7222*l.*; an enormous sum in those days. He was slain with Richard III. at the battle of Bosworth-field, and attainted; by which means the manor came to the crown: others say, Richard III. possessed the manor, and granted it to Sir William Stanley. King Henry VII. granted it to his mother, Margaret, Countess of Richmond, and Thomas Earl of Derby, her husband, for their lives. After their decease it reverted to the crown; and Henry VIII. granted it, with others, to Thomas Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk. Henry VIII. having erected a royal
palace

palace here, where he was accustomed to resort for the benefit of his health, annexed the manors of Stansted and Roydon, and other lands, to this palace, and made them an honour; and here he educated his children, that they might enjoy the benefit of the air. Edward VI. assigned this royal palace to Lady Mary, eldest daughter of Henry VIII., who resided here till Lady Jane Dudley was proclaimed Queen of England. In the reign of Philip and Mary the honour and lordship of Hunsdon, and other manors, were annexed to the dutchy of Lancaster, and during her reign continued in the crown. Queen Elizabeth granted it to Henry Cary, son of Sir William Cary, and Mary Boleyn, his wife, sister of Anne Boleyn, mother of the queen, whom she knighted, and advanced to the dignity of a baron, by the title of Baron Hunsdon, and profusely honoured with places of high rank. Henry, in the reign of James I., was advanced to the dignity of Viscount Rochford; and in the reign of Charles I., to the title of Earl of Dover. John Earl of Dover, his son, sold this estate to William Willoughby, Esq., younger brother of Lord Willoughby, of Parham; upon whose death Lord Willoughby succeeded him. About the year 1671 William Lord Willoughby sold the manor and advowson to Matthew Bluck, Esq., of London, in whose family it continued till purchased by the Calvert family, in which it now remains.

The church is near the manor-house, on a high hill, in the deanery of Braughing, and diocese of London. It has a chancel at the east, and a chapel next the south side; a square tower adjoins the west end, with a small spire. The rectory is rated in the king's books at the yearly value of 12*l.*, and the lords of the manor are the patrons.

W I D E F O R D.

THIS parish is about a mile distant from that of Hunsdon towards the north; it was so called from the ford. The Bishop of London held it at the time of the Conqueror; it was then worth 5*l.* per annum; and in the time of the Confessor, 8*l.* Shortly after, this land came to Robert de Belmont, who was nearly allied to William the Conqueror, and who rewarded him with ninety-one manors in different counties, and gave him the earldom of Mellent. In Henry I.'s reign he gave this manor to the monks of Bermondsey, who in process of time gave it to Adam de Stratton; but as the grant was made without licence by the monks, the manor was seized by the king,

king, and Edward I. granted it to the same prior and monks again, in whose hands it continued till the dissolution, when it came to the crown. Henry VIII. gave it to Sir Richard Southwell, Knight, and his heirs; from whom it came to Robert Adams, who sold it, in the reign of Philip and Mary, to Rowland Backhouse, Alderman of London, whose grandson, Charles II. created a baronet. Sir William Backhouse sold the manor to Thomas Byrd, Esq., of Mardocks, in this county.

The vicarage was rated in the king's books at 12*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, of which the lords of the manor are patrons. The church stands near the road leading to Ware, in the middle of the parish, in the deanery of Braughing, in the diocese of London, upon a hill facing the west; it has a square tower, with a spire.

W A R E.

THE Danes, with the assistance of other barbarous nations, taking advantage of the weakness of the people occasioned by their intestine wars, during the Saxon Heptarchy, arrived in the Thames in the year 894, and sailed from thence through the river Lea in light vessels up to this place, as the tides at that time flowed to Hertford. Here they erected a bank or dam, in order to secure themselves from the royal armies, which was at that time called Weare. Alfred could not remove them till he had made the great wall, called Blackwall, to stop the usual course of the tide, and drained the level by dividing the current into three streams near Waltham, so that their ships lay upon dry ground; and from this weare the town received its name. Others report, that it was built by order of King Edward, the son of Alfred. Hugh de Grentemaifnil held lands here at the time of the Conqueror, and accompanied him in his expedition to England. Ivo, his son, enjoyed his possessions; upon his death his brother Hugh possessed this manor and estate; he left issue Petronil, his heiress; she inherited them, and married Robert Blanchmaines, Earl of Leicester, and left three sons. Robert Fitzparnell came to it next; he was the eldest, and Earl of Leicester. He died in 1200, and left the estate to his sisters, Amy, wife of Simon Mountford, and Margaret, married to Sayer de Quincy, between whom this great earldom was divided. Simon, on the partition, was created Earl of Leicester; De Quincy was created Earl of Winchester, having the other half of the earldom and this manor for the share of Margaret. Sayer associ-

ated

ated himself with the barons then in rebellion against King John, and was party to the agreement made by the king, when he was compelled to resign the city of London to the government of the barons, and to grant them liberty to choose twenty-five barons to govern the realm: he was one of the twenty-five; nor could the pope intimidate him with his excommunications; for by his great power and authority he caused the iron chain, which locked up the passage over the bridge at this town, to be broken down, and the gate to be laid open; for before that time no cart or horses could be allowed to pass over the bridge without paying toll: by this means the great road was turned from Hertford through this town, which is now become large and populous. Sayer died in 1219. Margaret surviving her husband, resided much in the priory of this town, where she built many rooms. Roger de Quincy was their son and heir. At his death his three daughters, coheiresses, inherited the estate, the father having in his lifetime obtained a grant for a market in this town. In 1403 this town was inundated with the waters which flowed in from the uplands. It continued in the family of De Quincy some time, and by marriage came to Baldwin Wake. In this family it remained, till by marriage it came to Sir Thomas Holland, in Edward III.'s reign: he was Earl of Kent afterwards, and his heir, Duke of Kent, so created by Richard II. This duke lost his title upon the accession of Henry IV., when he was attainted and his lands seized. Edmund, his brother, succeeded him in the title of Earl of Kent. He died in possession of this manor, which became the share of his sister Eleanor, wife of Thomas of Montacute, Earl of Salisbury. At his death, in the reign of Henry VI., he left a daughter, married to Richard Nevill, afterwards made Earl of Salisbury; they left issue, Richard, the famous Earl of Warwick, who assisted Edward IV. to obtain the throne; but afterwards, from the intrigues of that prince and his party, and the dissensions which arose, this earl took arms against that king, and replaced Henry VI. upon the throne: but before the revolution of one year, Edward landed again, and routed the Earl of Warwick in a battle at Barnet, where he, with his friends, were defeated and slain. He left two daughters, Isabel, married to George Duke of Clarence, and Anne to Edward Prince of Wales. Upon this the manor of Ware was conveyed to George Duke of Clarence, who was murdered in a butt of malmesey, leaving Edward, his son, the next heir; upon whose death the manor came to the crown. Henry VII. granted it to his mother, the Countess of Richmond, with all its appurtenances. She lived to see the coronation of Henry VIII., who

who was her grandson. Lady Margaret Poole, sister of Edward, son of the Duke of Clarence, received the estate from Henry, with the title of Countess of Salisbury, and all the estates which came to the crown by the attainder of Edward Earl of Warwick, her brother: she, however, finally lost her head, and the manor of Ware, which was then valued at 107*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.* per annum. She left four sons and one daughter, married to Lord Stafford: he was never, however, in possession of this manor, for upon the attainder of his mother, the estate came to the crown, where it remained till Mary Queen of England granted it to Catherine Countess of Huntingdon and her heirs. Queen Elizabeth confirmed this grant. The countess, a short time after, sold it to Thomas Fanshaw, Esq., who claimed, amongst other immunities, a market here on every Tuesday. He was the king's remembrancer, and justice of peace for the county. He died possessed of the manor in 1600. His son succeeded him, and was knighted; and was a strict adherent of King Charles I., for which he was imprisoned, and lost his estate; but it was restored to him upon the accession of Charles II., and he was created a viscount. He left three sons.

About the eighteenth year of Henry III.'s reign Margaret Countess of Leicester, and lady of the manor, founded a priory for friars in the north part of this town, which she dedicated to St. Francis, and endowed with the tithes of this church and that of Thunderick, which they enjoyed till the reign of Henry VIII., when it was surrendered to that king, who conveyed it to Thomas Byrch; he held it in the reign of Edward VI. It was afterwards sold to James Stanley, citizen and scrivener of London; his son and heir sold it to — Haydon, who gave it by will to different persons, who alienated it to Thomas Feltham, innkeeper, of London; and he sold it to Robert Hadgeley, of Mundon. The same king granted the advowson of the church, with the manor of the rectory and tithes, to Trinity College, which he founded in Cambridge. This college demised it to Alexander Mead, Esq., for a term of years, who assigned the lease to Sir Richard Tufton, Knight: upon his death it came to Margaret, his widow, who married Seymour Tredenham, of Tregonin, in Cornwall.

The manor of Westmill in this parish is situated about a mile distant from the town of Ware, and in the Conqueror's time belonged to Ralph de Toderic; it was then worth about 12*l.* per annum, and in the time of the Confessor 14*l.*: from his heirs it passed to the family of Half-hide, who held it in the reign of Henry III.

Ifabella, by marriage with Adam Nash, upon her agreement with him, took the name of Half-hide: she was daughter of John Half-hide: their son possessed it in the reign of Henry VI. He had issue John, whose daughter Amy succeeded her father in the manor; and in 1464 married William Mandane, Esq. Their son possessed it; and he had issue Thomas, who left two daughters, Margaret and Elizabeth; Margaret married Thomas Shotbolt, Esq., in whose right he became possessed of the manor; Philip, the second son of the right descendant, sold it to George Bromley, citizen and haberdasher, of London; his son George came into possession of it, and was very loyal to King Charles I.: he assisted Sir Thomas Fanshaw to raise men for him at the siege of Colchester in 1648. After the death of that king he endeavoured to secure his son in the throne; but failing in the attempt, his estate was sequestered, and he obliged to retire to some obscure spot till Charles II. was restored: he held the manor to the time of his death, which he left to his son, who, being unable to pay his father's debts, sold it to Thomas Feltham, who held it some time, and left his son his heir.

The manor of Mardock is situated upon the river Ash, about two miles east of the town of Ware. The estate is very pleasant, and was the property of a person named Mardock, whence it took the name. It afterwards came to William James, whose daughter and heiress married Hugh Chapman, by which marriage he became possessed of their estate. It continued in this family some time, till Edward Chapman sold it to John Watts, citizen and clothworker, of London. He married in 1574 Margaret, daughter of Sir James Hawes, lord mayor of London. In his posterity it remained till John Buck, of Hamley Grange, in Lincolnshire, purchased it; and he sold it to Thomas Bird, Esq.

The manor of Grumbalds is situated upon a hill, called Widbury Hill; it has a good house belonging to it; and was the seat of Thomas Hill, who sold it to James Stanley, citizen and scrivener, of London: Thomas Stanley, his grandson, sold it to Alexander Weld, Esq., who died seised of it in 1670, leaving issue Alexander, his son.

The manor of Blakefwere is about three miles distant from the town eastward, and belonged to the family of the Hangers. It is an agreeable seat, and was sold by them to John King, Gent., who afterwards disposed of it to Heneage Featherstone, Esq., justice of peace for the county; created a baronet in 1660. He sold it to Sir

Thomas

Thomas Leventhorp, Bart. : he rebuilt the house, and granted it afterwards to Sir Thomas Clutterbuck, Knight, who died in 1683. After his death the house was conveyed to John Plomer, Esq.

The town of Ware is situated in a vale on the east side of the river Lea ; it consists of one street in length, with other smaller ones and lanes full of houses, and famous for inns, whereof one is remarkable for a large bed, which is twelve feet square ; the unusual size of this, frequently invited curious travellers to view it ; among whom it is reported that six citizens and their wives came from London in a frolic to sport in it ; having feasted themselves with avidity, the women agreed that they and their husbands should lie in the great bed together, six at one end and six at the other, with a man and his wife, then a wife and her husband, then a man and his wife ; the other three couple were to lie in the same order ; but the host intending to play a trick, provided a posset, in which he put some pulvis crepitorius, of which they ate heartily : after a short repose the effects of the posset greatly incommoded them, and they were obliged to hasten their return to London. On the left of the town is Ware park, the seat of T. H. Byde, Esq.

The vicarage of Ware was rated in the king's books at 20*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.* a year, of which the masters and fellows of Trinity College, Cambridge, have been patrons since the grant of Henry VIII. The church is situated on the east side of the great street, in a very neat churchyard, in the deanery of Braughing, in the diocese of London, and is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, from whom it is called St. Mary the Great. It is built after the form of a cross, and contains three large aisles ; in the middle one the governors of Christ's Hospital have erected a handsome gallery for the boys, who are put out to nurse in the town. There are three chancels at the east end of the church, covered with lead ; at the west end is a square tower, with five bells, and a dwarf-spire erected upon the tower. The church has four large vaults ; the first belonging to Ware park, the second to Sir Robert Fanshaw, the third to Sir Thomas Byde, and the fourth to Sir Thomas Clutterbuck. Here are some liberal benefactions towards the poor in the parish. Mrs. Eleanor Brydges gave 8*l.* a year in land to the poor ; Mrs. Elmer 8*l.* in a tenement ; Mr. Humphrey Spencer gave an inn, called the Lamb, of the yearly rent of 14*l.* to the poor scholars who were to be educated at the school of Ware, amounting to ten in number, and 5*l.* a year for the education of five children in Ware Upland, besides other smaller gifts. George Mead, M.D., gave 5*l.* per annum to the poor, and a messuage of land of 18*l.* yearly

value to the poor of Ware. The governors of the New River also gave 22 $\frac{1}{2}$. annually from tenements and lands here. The church clerk gave four acres to the clerks of the parish successively.

THUNDERIDGE.

THIS parish lies about two miles north-east of Ware, in a vale on the south side of the river Rib, which in Domesday-book was called Tonrich, of which the Bishop of Bayeux in France was lord. Hugh de Grentemesnil, lord of Ware, held this manor of the Bishop of Bayeux, and afterwards purchased it. In the Confessor's time it was worth 5 $\frac{1}{2}$. per annum. Almod had possession of it at that time. In the time of Edward III. it was in the possession of William Disney the younger; it continued in his family till the reign of Henry IV., when they sold it to John Hamsterly, who conveyed it to John Pery, the elder, of Thunderick, in the reign of Henry VI. In this family it remained till it came to Henry Gardiner of London, who was the purchaser of it: he had two sons, to the youngest of whom he gave this manor; he lived in Henry VIII.'s reign; and from him it passed to Simon Gardiner of London. In this family it continued. Thunderidge-bury is the seat of J. Hollingsworth, Esq.

The rectory is appropriated to the perpetual use of the masters and fellows of Trinity College, Cambridge; and the vicarage was rated in the king's books at the yearly value of 6 $\frac{1}{2}$., of which the masters and fellows are patrons. The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and is called Little St. Mary's; it is situated at the bottom of the hill near the manor-house, in the deanery of Barking, and in the diocese of London. At the west end of the church is a square tower, with a spire.

STANELOW, OR STANDON.

THIS parish is called Stanelow, or Standon, from the neighbouring hill; for both these names signify a stony hill. In the time of the Conqueror, Rothais, daughter of the Earl of Buckingham, then wife of Richard, son of Earl Gislebert, held the manor. In the time of the Confessor it was worth 34 $\frac{1}{2}$. After the death of Richard this countess married Eudo Dapifer, who built the castle of Colchester, with the monastery

monastery of St. John, where they were buried in the time of Henry I., leaving issue Margaret, who married William de Mandeville. Gilbert de Clare, her eldest son, heir to the estates, gave the church of Standon to the knights hospitallers, with 140 acres of land, and his vineyard there. He died in 1151, in the reign of King Stephen. It continued in this family till the estate was divided among three sisters of Gilbert de Clare, who died without male issue in Edward II.'s reign, when the manor came to Elizabeth, who had married Roger D'Amory, who obtained a charter for free warren at Standon, but was afterwards attainted; she possessed the manor, and at her death, in Edward III.'s reign, left Elizabeth, her grand-daughter, her heiress; she married Lionel Duke of Clarence, third son of Edward III. This duke obtained a charter for a market on every Friday at his manor of Standon, and a fair for three days, in the vigils, on the eve-day, and morrow of St. Peter ad Vincula, yearly. He left an only daughter, Philippa, married to Edmund Mortimer, Earl of March; she possessed the estate. Roger was their son and heir, and after him Edmond: he was heir to the crown, and died in Henry VI.'s reign. Richard Duke of York was next heir: he attempted to gain the crown, but dying at Wakefield, and his son Edward being proclaimed King of England, under the title of Edward IV., this manor came to the crown, and continued there till Henry VIII. gave it to Ralph Sadler, Esq., of Hackney, Middlesex. Sir Ralph Sadler, privy councillor to Queen Elizabeth, and chancellor of the dutchy of Lancaster, built a noble house here, and died in 1587, leaving Thomas his heir. Ralph was his heir, and Gertrude, his daughter; Sir Walter Aston, of the county of Stafford, married Gertrude; and Ralph, her brother, dying, she came into possession of the manor; and thus it passed to the family of Walter Lord Aston, their son and heir, created a baron in 1627. The heirs of the last Lord Aston sold the estate to William Plomer, Esq., about forty years since.

The manor of Berewick was part of the possessions of the ancient family of the Bauds, who were lords of the manor of Hadham-hall: they, about the reign of Henry VII., sold this manor to John Crouch, who lived here in Henry VIII.'s reign; his grandson sold it to Thomas Nuce; Thomas, his son, sold it to Thomas Flyer, Esq.

The manor of Milkley was part of the revenue of the crown in Henry VIII.'s time; King Philip and Queen Mary annexed it to the dutchy of Lancaster; Charles I. granted it to Edward Ditchfield and others in trust for the mayor and

commons

commons of the city of London. These trustees sold this manor to Edward Brograve and his heirs.

The manor of Bartrams is situated on the river Rib, and was part of the possessions of the Bauds; from whom it came to the Nuce family. Thomas Nuce, Esq., sold it to William Fenn of Harrow on the Hill. Between Ware and Standon is Fanham-hall, the seat of John Currie, Esq.; and Youngsbury, that of Daniel Giles, Esq.

The rectory of Standon was appropriated to the perpetual use of the knights templars; upon the dissolution of that order it came to the crown, from whence it was conveyed to Ralph Sadler, Esq., and by descent came to Lord Aston. The vicarage is rated in the king's books at 13*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.*, and the impropiators of the parsonage are the patrons. The church is situated near the town, in the deanery of Braughing, in the diocese of London: it consists of three aisles; the chancel is raised seven steps above the floor of the church; and the place for the communion-table is raised three steps above the pavement of the chancel. A square tower is at the east end of the south aisle, which contains five bells, and a spire. Here are some benefactions: George Crouch, of London, gave, in the reign of Henry VIII., 10*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* partly for repairs of the road, and partly for poor maids at their marriage; Ralph Sadler gave 5*l.* per annum to the poor; Thomas Fisher in 1612 gave an estate and land amounting to 45*l.* per annum, 20*l.* of it to the school in Standon, 10*l.* of it in bread for the poor, 5*l.* of it to purchase books, &c. for the scholars, and the other 10*l.* to Christ's Hospital; and he gave 50*s.* to the minister and inhabitants to distribute among the poor: David Thomas, a Welshman, gave the rent of two acres of land in Puckeridge, and 70*l.* in money, to be distributed among the poor. Here are also some other smaller donations. In the town is a neat bridge over the Rib, and another at Wadesmill; both of which were erected at the charge of the county.

Puckeridge is a hamlet, situated in Ermine-street, in the parishes of Standon and Braughing, and lies partly in the manor of Standon, and partly in that of Milkley; it is not chargeable of itself, but every house is rated to the parish where it stands. In Camden's *Britannia* it is called Pulcher church. Edward I. granted a market and fair to this hamlet.

WESTMILL.

THIS parish is situated about two miles distance from Braughing towards the north upon the river Rib; and was so called from three mills which stood upon the brook, and remained here at the time that the great survey was made by order of the Conqueror. In the whole, it was at that time worth 17*l.* per annum; and in the time of the Confessor it was worth 20*l.* Anschitil held it of Robert de Olgi, one of the dukes who accompanied William the Conqueror to this country, who rewarded him with this manor. It was afterwards conveyed to John de Moyne, who granted to the prior and the canons of the church of the Holy Trinity this estate of Westmill, and all the tithes of the same. Hugh de Marines also endowed this church with lands here. Sir Thomas de Lukenor was lord of the manor of Westmill, and his son succeeded him. King Edward III. granted to the abbots and monks of the abbey of St. Mary de Graces, near the town of London, this manor of Westmill, with others, which the Countess of Pembroke held before of the king for her life. In this abbey it remained till the dissolution, when it was granted to Sir Thomas Audley, Knight, with all appurtenances and advowsons belonging to their other estates in Westmill, &c. From him it passed as the manor of Braughing to Thomas Lord Howard, who afterwards sold it to John Brograve, Esq., and heirs, with the advowson of the church, in whose family it remained.

The rectory is rated in the king's books at 20*l.* per annum; the patronage is in the lords of the manor. The church is situated in a vale near the town, in the deanery of Baldock, in the diocese of Lincoln; at the west end of the church is a square tower, containing four bells, with a short spire erected upon it. Mrs. Mary Kent gave 20*l.* here to have the interest distributed among the poor.

HERTFORD HUNDRED.

THIS hundred, which derives the name from the town of Hertford, is bounded on the north and west by Broadwater hundred, on the east by that of Braughing, and the county of Essex; and on the south by the county of Middlesex. It contains these parishes, or hamlets, which are divided between two high constables; one has for his

division, St. John's, Brickendon, and Little Amwell, Benjehoe, Stapleford, Hertingfordbury, and Tewing. The justices usually hold their sessions for this division at Hertford; but the borough includes the town of Hertford, and part of Brickendon, with the parish of St. John, and is a liberty by itself, exempt from the rest of the hundred, as it chooses its own officers. The other high constable has in his division the parishes of Easingdon, East Berkhamstead, Beyford, Great Amwell, Thele, or St. Margaret's Hoddesdon, Broxborne, Wormley, and Cheshunt: the justices generally hold their sessions in Hoddesdon for this division. This hundred is all enclosed, and abounds much with wood.

HERTFORD.

THIS town was a place of some consequence in the time of the ancient Britons, who called it Duro-Cobriua, which in their language signifies a red ford, from the gravelly red at the ford. Briua, which was added to many places, signifies a bridge or passage. It is situated upon the river Lea. The Saxons afterwards called it Herudford. He being an article in their language, signifying the; Rudford at length by contraction became Hertford. In the beginning of the Heptarchy this town was accounted one of the principal cities in the kingdom of the East Saxons, where the kings of that province often kept their courts; and in the year 673 a parliamentary council was held here. King Egbert having subdued his neighbouring princes, made himself the first English monarch, and denominated this province from the town, and made it the shire or county town. The Danes in their invasion sailed up to this place in the time of Alfred, and made great havoc, plundering the inhabitants, and destroying the houses. In the time of the Confessor this town was a borough, and was rated at ten hides. William the Conqueror gave the custody of the castle of Hertford to Peter de Valoines, which had been built in the reign of Alfred. This castle was a place of great celebrity, and had governors of it appointed by the king. The king of France was here kept prisoner in the reign of Edward III. King Henry VI. kept his Easter here in the year 1429. In Henry VIII.'s time it was a pleasant seat, with a river running at the north side of it; with a large court-yard, and a park rather more than a mile in compass.

The town of Hertford is built in form of the letter Y, between the two horns of which

which the castle is built. An elegant town-hall has been lately erected; and here is also a county gaol. In the castle, the county sessions are held. The town had formerly five churches, which are now reduced to two, All Saints and St. Andrew's. Here is a free grammar-school, founded in the reign of James I. by Richard Hale, Esq., and endowed with 40*l.* a year: the corporation are governors of it; but the master is appointed by the heirs or representatives of Mr. Hale. The house is a handsome structure, and was built some years ago. Here are also three charity-schools; one erected by the inhabitants for forty boys, who are clothed and taught by subscription, another for twenty-five children, and a third for twenty children: both the latter are supported by the donations of private persons. The chief commodities of Hertford are wheat, malt, and wool; an immense quantity of malt is sent every week to London by means of the river Lea. The magnificence of Hertford is, however, considerably diminished, since one of the north roads from London, which passed through it, was turned through the town of Ware. Hertford sends two members to parliament; has a weekly market on Saturday, and four annual fairs, the Saturday fortnight before Easter, the 12th of May, the 5th of July, and the 8th of November, all for the sale of horses and cattle. On the petition of the burghesses and bailiff, in Henry V.'s reign, to be excused on account of their poverty, the privilege of sending members to parliament was discontinued till the twenty-second year of James I.'s reign. In Henry VII.'s reign the standard of weights and measures was fixed here, and Queen Mary made it a corporation by the name of bailiffs and burghesses; and by her charter, the number of burghesses was to have been sixteen. In the twenty-fifth and thirty-fifth of Elizabeth, Michaelmas term was held here on account of the plague which raged in London. At present the town is governed by a mayor, high steward, who is generally a nobleman, a recorder, nine aldermen, a town clerk, chamberlain, ten capital burghesses, and sixteen assistants, with two sergeants at mace.

The priory of Benedictine monks was formerly subordinate to the abbey of St. Alban's, erected about the latter end of the Conqueror's reign by Ralph of Limesic, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary. At the dissolution its revenues amounted to 72*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.* per annum: upon its coming to the crown, Henry VIII. granted it to Anthony Denny, Esq., and his heirs; from them it came to Martin Trott, Esq.; then to Richard Willis, Esq., of Horningsey, in Cambridgeshire. Thomas Willis

rebuilt the church in 1629, and dedicated it to St. John the Baptist; it was afterwards demolished by order of the Bishop of Lincoln.

The parish of All Saints, in the deanery of Hertford and diocese of Lincoln, is a vicarage, and valued in the king's books at 10*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* per annum; Sir John Harrison, patron of the church of St. John, united them into one, and for that purpose gave all the tithes of the parish of St. John, except his own lands; to which the king and his heirs present alternately. Mr. Gabriel Barber purchased the impropriation of the tithes of Brickendon, and annexed them to this church; so that it is now a vicarage endowed. The church is built on the south side of the east end of the town, containing two aisles, with a newer building on the north side of the chancel at the east end, which makes it form the figure of a cross. A small square tower adjoins the west end, and contains eight bells. It has a lofty spire, and the church contains an organ. The governors of Christ's Hospital have erected a gallery for the accommodation of two hundred of their children who may be sick or supernumerary. There is a gallery for the mayor and corporation.

The parish of St. Andrew is a rectory, the church of which is dedicated to St. Andrew, situated between St. Andrew's Street and the river Lea, at the north-west end of the town; containing a body and two small aisles, with a chancel of a low building; at the west end is a square tower, covered with lead, and a short spire upon it. In the tower are four bells. The rectory, with the chapel of St. Mary the Virgin, is rated at the yearly value of 8*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.*: the patronage is in the dutchy of Lancaster. St. Mary's church stood near the old cross, between the street leading to Cowbridge and St. Mary's Street, in the back lane which leads to the river Lea. The rectory of St. Nicholas was valued at 76*l.* per annum in the king's books. The dutchy of Lancaster had the patronage, but it is now annexed to St. Andrew's parish. The church stood in St. Nicholas' Street. The old timber bridge, called Cowbridge, was pulled down, and rebuilt in 1676 by the inhabitants of the borough. The governors of Christ's Hospital erected a house in the town for the reception of those children whom they could not maintain for want of room, and who were sent here for the benefit of air. Edward VI. converted the house of Grey Friars in London to this hospital.

The manor of Brickendon is so called from the hill where the manor-house is situated in the parish of All Saints. King Edward the Confessor gave it to the canons

of the church of Waltham, who were possessed of it in the time of William the Conqueror. In the Confessor's reign it was valued at 8*l.* per annum. It remained in that monastery till the dissolution, when it came to the crown. Edward VI. granted it to John Aleyn, who sold it to Sir Stephen Soame, Knight; from this family it came to Edward Clark, citizen of London, knighted in the reign of William and Mary. It is now the seat of — Morgan, Esq., and is situated in a large park, well furnished with wood and water.

The manor of Amwell Parva was so called from Amwell spring, and is now a member of St. Andrew's parish. This spring is the head of what is Middleton's cut, and now called the New River. William the Conqueror gave this manor to Ralph de Limsey; it was then worth 14*l.* 10*s.*, and in the reign of the Confessor 18*l.* In Domesday-book there was only one manor; but it was divided afterwards, and part of it given to Waltham church, the other part to the abbot and monks of St. Peter's church, Westminster. The church of Waltham held this part till the dissolution, when it came to the crown. The inhabitants then having no church, resorted to that of All Saints, of which it has ever since been reputed a part or hamlet. Henry VIII. gave this manor to Leonard Chamberlain, Esq., and Richard Andrews, Gent. In Edward VI.'s reign John Knighton purchased it, from whom it descended to Sir George Knighton; from them it came to John Gardiner, Esq.; and from this family, by marriage, to Henry Dunster, Esq., in 1666.

Balls is a noble seat, situated on the west side of the road leading from Hertford to Hoddesdon, on a hill half a mile from the town in Amwell; it is so called from Simon de Ball, one of the burgeses who served in parliament in Edward I.'s reign, and was then owner of this place; from whom it came to William Henmarsh, who had it in the time of Queen Elizabeth; his daughter marrying Richard Willis, Esq., of Horningfey, this seat came into his possession: his son, Thomas, sold it to John Harrison, Esq. This seat is now the property of Marquis Townshend.

The Sele is another hamlet which belongs to the parish of St. Andrew; and at the time of the Conquest was given to Goisfrede de Beck, a valiant Norman; it was at that time worth only 10*s.* Hugh de la Sele was lord of it in Edward I.'s reign; from him it probably took the name. In Henry VI.'s time it was in Philip Boteler, in whose family it has continued.

Blakemere was another hamlet in Domesday-book belonging to this parish. In the Confessor's reign it was worth 15*s.* It derived the name from its situation upon

a bleak moor or hill, which Sir Stephen Sleany purchased in Elizabeth's reign: It continued in this family till it determined in two daughters, one of whom was Mary, who married — Hitchcock, who purchased the moiety of the other sister; he left one daughter, married to — Elwes, merchant, of London, in whose possession it remained.

King Charles gave to the mayor and burgessees 100*l.* for the use of the corporation; Thomas Tooke, Esq., gave 50*l.* for the purpose of bringing a spring of water to the conduit in the market-place; William Leman, Esq., gave 100*l.* to pay the debts of the corporation; and Sir Thomas Byde, Knight, gave 50*l.* for the same; Sir Charles Cæsar 100*l.*; John Clarke 20*l.*; Dr. Bernard Hale gave 100*l.* to maintain seven scholars in Peterhouse, Cambridge, for seven years, out of the free-school which Richard Hale had erected. John Browne dying intestate, the prerogative court ordered 600*l.* to be laid out in charitable uses; it was applied to the poor of Hertford. Sir John Harrison gave 100*l.* to the poor. There are many other benefactions.

The East India College within two miles of Hertford is worthy notice.

BENGEO, OR BENEHOO.

THIS place is situated about a mile distant from Hertford towards the north-east, bounded on the east by the river Rib, on the south by the Lea, and on the north-west by the Beane; the Saxon word hoo signifies water; at the Conquest it was divided amongst different Normans. It is not improbable that the town of Stapleford was part of this parish at that time. Hugh de Bellocampo, or Hugh Beauchamp, who came into England with the Conqueror, was rewarded with this manor. His brother sold it in 1092 to John, prior of Bermondsey, by the name of the manor of Richmond, but now called Bengoe, for 160 marks. Reynald de Tannay gave the monks of Bermondsey the church of Bengoe in 1156. It remained in that monastery till the dissolution, when it came to the crown, where it continued till Queen Elizabeth granted it to Francis Earl of Huntingdon; and from that time it passed with the manor to the same persons as the manor of Ware, until it came to Sir Thomas Byde.

The manor of Revel's-hall was so called from John Revel, who held it in Henry II.'s time: he sold it afterwards to John Lovetoft, who granted and confirmed to Geoffrey de Beninghoe all the lands, &c., which Thomas, the son of
Arnold,

Arnold, of Herlawe, grandfather of Geoffrey, whose heir he was, held of the gift of John Revel, in Beninghoe, of the fee of Robert De Vere, Earl of Oxford. William Cadwell, or Coventry, was in possession of it in the reign of Queen Mary and in that of Elizabeth. Joan, his heiress, married Sir George Knighton, of Beyford, in this county; his son had it in 1614, and after that gave it to Henry Gardiner, Esq.; his daughter married Henry Dunster, Esq., who thus came into possession of it; he dying, left it to his wife.

The manor of Temple Chelfin was so named, because it was part of the ancient possessions of the knights templars. In Edward I.'s reign the master of that order claimed by the grant of Henry III. large liberties here: but the manor falling to the crown in the reign of Henry VIII. upon the dissolution of monasteries, that king, in consideration of 843*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* granted it to Sir Ralph Sadlier, Knight, one of his secretaries of state, with that of Temple Dynnelly. This family sold it to Sir Robert Boteler, of Wattenwood-hall, in the reign of James I. His daughter marrying John Bellasis, Esq., they both held a court here in 1663. He sold it to Sir John Gore, Knight, who had married the eldest daughter of Sir John Boteler; after having enjoyed it about fifty years, he sold it to Sir Thomas Rolt, Knight, who had been president of the East India Company at Surat, and was sheriff of the county in 1695.

The vicarage in Henry VIII.'s reign was valued in 7*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* per annum, and the lords of the manor of Bengoe are the patrons. The church is situated upon a great hill, overlooking the town of Hertford, in the deanery of Hertford, in the diocese of Lincoln; it is tiled, and at the west end is a small erection of wood, wherein are two small bells.

S T A P L E F O R D.

THIS parish lies about two miles distant from Bengoe church, on the north; and in the Conqueror's time was part of the parish. The word staple signifies a safe port, it being a place where merchants met to sell and buy articles of the land from the great. In the time of Henry II. John Monk, lord of the manor, gave 60 acres of land, in Stapleford, to the church of St. Alban's. In Edward I.'s reign Hugh Bardolph was lord of the manor, and Roger Aiguillon presented to the church. The

manor

manor was afterwards divided between two daughters and coheiresses of the Bardolph family; one of whom married Patchington, from whom her share was called Patchington; and the other sister's part was termed Waterford from its situation. Both manors were afterwards conveyed to Sir John Say, Knight, and Thomas Leventhorp, Esq., who, in Edward IV.'s reign, granted them to George Newport, Esq., son and heir of William Newport, Esq., and Hugh Clayton, who, in the same year, conveyed them to Sir John Say and others. The manor of Waterford was shortly after granted to Thomas Mundene, whose eldest daughter married Thomas Shotbolt, Esq., who thus became possessed of it; from this family it came to George Bromley, who conveyed it to his younger children, who sold it in the year 1696 to Thomas Feltham, of Ware Westmill; upon whose death it came to John Feltham, his son and heir. The manor of Patchington came to Sir John Boteler, Knight. In the time of Henry VII. it passed into the family of Worthall, and continued with them till it came to Philip Boteler, Esq.

Gobions is another manor here, so called from Sir Richard Gobion, Knight, who was lord of it in the reign of King Stephen; from whom it came to Sir Ansel Gobion, Knight, who held it in the time of Henry II. It continued with them till Hawise, daughter of Richard Gobion, marrying Ralph Boteler, it came into his possession. She died in Edward III.'s reign; and in that family it remained. In Henry VII.'s reign the father of Sir Thomas More had it. Henry VIII. seized it, with Sir Thomas's other estates; it has since passed through various hands, and was lately the property of John Hunter, Esq.

The rectory was valued at 8*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* in Henry VIII.'s reign. The church is small, having a wooden building at the west end, in which are two small bells. It is situated in a vale near the river Beane, in the deanery of Hertford, in the diocese of Lincoln.

HERTINGFORDBURY.

THIS parish lies about three miles distant from Stapleford to the west, and about a mile from Hertford. At the time of the survey Ralph Baniard, a Norman lord, had it: it was then worth 8*l.* a year; and in the time of the Confessor 10*l.* The name is derived from the Saxon, and signifies a passage through the river in the meads to a seat near Hertford. William Baniard conspiring against Henry I., was
put

put to death, and his estate came to the crown from his attainder. That king granted it to Peter de Valoines, who was his steward. His descendant, Peter, left several daughters, one of whom, Christiana, married William de Mandeville; and after his death, Peter de Maine, to whose share this manor fell. It next came to Audemar de Valence, Earl of Pembroke, who attending Queen Isabella into France, was there murdered for having assisted in the death of the Earl of Lancaster: leaving no issue, this lordship came to Elizabeth Comyn of Scotland, one of his cousins and heirs, to whom it was assigned in Edward II.'s reign. She married Richard Talbot, of Gooderich castle. Soon after it returned to the king again; and he granted it to Reginald Grey, of Wilton, who was a knight, and served in several parliaments in the time of Edward III. It next came to his son, Henry de Grey, and then devolved again to the crown; from whence it was conveyed to John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster; and from that time it continued in that duchy till it came into the possession of Charles I., who granted to William Earl of Salisbury this manor and appurtenances; this earl shortly after conveyed it to Christopher Vernon, Esq., of the exchequer. It remained in this family till 1690, when it was sold to James Selby, Esq., of the Inner Temple. It is in the liberty of the duchy of Lancaster.

The manor of Roxford was, in the time of the Conqueror, granted by that king to Goisfrede de Beck. In the time of the Confessor it was worth 20s. It is held of the manor of Ware by the yearly rent of a rose, and was part of the possessions of Sir John Ferrars, Knight, in 1603, but was afterwards sold to Phineas Andrews, Gent., who conveyed it to Mr. Balam, of Hoddesdon, whose son alienated it to Mr. Charlicomb about the year 1660, deputy clerk of the peace at Westminster, who had one daughter, married to Patrick Crawford, of Gray's Inn; by which marriage he became the possessor of it. Here was formerly a small park, about a mile in compass, part of the revenue of the castle of Hertford, belonging to the duchy of Lancaster, which continued in it till Charles I. conveyed it to William Earl of Salisbury, who granted it to Sir William Harrington, Knight, and he converted the lodge into a good house, in which he some time lived; and at his death it was sold to Thomas Keightley, sheriff of the county in 1651. His grandson sold the estate to John Culling, Esq., of London. John, his son, built a good house here, in which he resided. From this family it came to the Spencers; and then was purchased by the Bakers, of Bayford-bury.

Epicaumpe

Epicaumpe was another small manor, which Leming had in the time of King Richard I.

The rectory of Hertingfordbury was rated in the king's books at the yearly value of 12*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.*: the king is patron in right of the dutchy of Lancaster. The chancellor of that dutchy of course presents in his behalf. There are about fifty-five acres of glebe land. The present incumbent is the Rev. Dr. Hook. The church is situated upon rising ground, on the east side near the river Mimeram; it is covered with lead, and has a square tower annexed to the west end, with a small steeple in the middle; there are five bells belonging to it. The church is dedicated to St. Mary. The village of Hertingfordbury is very pleasant, and contains some excellent houses; one of which was purchased by Earl Cowper some years since of Lady Hughes.

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### T E W I N G.

NORTH-WEST of the last parish is Tewing, situated upon the same river; it was formerly part of the lands belonging to St. Alban's abbey; but Peter de Valloines had it at the time of the Conquest; it was then worth 60*s.* per annum; in the Confessor's time 4*l.* From this family it came to the possession of Alexander de Swexford, canon of St. Paul's; he gave it to the priory of St. Bartholomew, near West Smithfield, in London, with the advowson of the church; at that time it was held by Godfrey de Teywing. This was about the reign of Henry III. Upon the dissolution, to which period it remained in that monastery, Henry VIII. granted it to John Cock, Esq., of Broxborne, in this county. Frances, eldest daughter of his son Henry, sold the manor to Richard Hale, Esq., in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; and his younger son, who possessed it as a gift from his father, sold it to William Cecil, Earl of Salisbury. This nobleman settled the estate on William, his third son, of whose grandson it was purchased by James Fleet, Esq., son of Sir John Fleet, lord mayor of London. He died in 1733, and left it to his widow during her life. She married four husbands; her last was Lieutenant-colonel Hugh Macquiere, whom she survived, and who kept her in close confinement during twenty years in an apartment in her house. She died in 1789. The reversion of the manor was sold previous to her death about ten years by the executors of Mr. Fleet to William Earl Cowper, in whose family it still remains.

Tewing-



Tewing-house was rebuilt in a very magnificent style by General Sabine, second husband of the widow just mentioned, who adorned it with pictures of the Duke of Marlborough's battles, in which he bore a considerable share. It has passed from the general's grandson to Robert Mackay, Esq.; and from him to Charles Schrieber. He died in 1800, and his son disposed of it to Earl Cowper, the present possessor. The old manor-house of Tewing stands at the bottom of a hill, about 300 yards from the church to the south-west, on the north side of the river Maran. Henry Cowper, Esq., clerk of the house of lords, has erected a very handsome new house here, the grounds of which are pleasing.

Marden, another ancient seat here, from the Mimeram or Maran, was in possession of the Newhursts some ages since; it then came to the North family. Hugh North erected a good house. His two daughters sold it to Edmund Field, Esq., in Charles II.'s time, who afterwards granted it to Edward Warren, Esq. Richard Warren's grandson sold it to Robert Mackay, Esq., who pulled down the old mansion, and built a handsome new house, which now also belongs to Earl Cowper.

The rectory is rated at 14*l.* per annum in the king's books. The church stands about the middle of the town, in the deanery of Hertford, and diocese of London, with a square tower on it and a spire, with five bells.

## ESSENDON.

THIS parish is omitted in Domesday-book, and probably had its name from a hill on which the church is erected. It was then most likely waste ground, and was part of the revenue of the crown. Henry I. gave some part of it to St. Alban's church, and the manor to Peter de Valoines. It reverted to the crown afterwards, and Henry III. gave it to William de Valence. After his death it returned to the crown; it was then called Bedwell, and remained there till Edward IV. granted it to Sir William Say, Knight; from whom it passed in the same manner as Bennington did, till it came again to the crown. Queen Elizabeth granted it to William Potter, who possessed it some time, but at length sold the manor-house, now called Bedwell park, from an ancient park there, and part of the demesnes, to Sir Henry Atkins, Knight; from whom it came to his lady; and after her decease to Thomas Atkins, Esq., who



adorned the feat, and beautified the gardens. William Potter afterwards sold the other part to William Priestley, Esq., sheriff of the county in Charles I.'s reign. His son, in Charles II.'s time, had a feat here, called Wild-hall, now Camfield-place, of which the Rev. William Brown is owner. William Potter conveyed the last part of his manor of Bedwell to Thomas Middleton, Esq., who sold it to the Earl of Salisbury. It lies in the dutchy of Lancaster.

The rectory was valued in the king's books at 18*l.* per annum: the Marquis of Salisbury is patron. The church is situated on a hill, in the deanery of Hertford, and diocese of Lincoln. It has a square tower and short spire, with five bells.

### BERKHAMSTEAD PARVA.

THIS parish is also called East Berkhamstead, to distinguish it from that of Great or West Berkhamstead; it is situated about two miles from Essington to the east; and in the Conqueror's time was in the possession of Hardwin de Scalers. It was worth 5*l.* at the time of the survey. From this family it came in King John's time to the possession of Foulke Brent, a Norman by birth, of mean extraction, but greatly in favour of the king. By his death the manor escheated to the King Henry III., who gave to Nicholas de Molis all Brent's possessions. It continued in this family till Isabella, daughter of John de Molis, who married William de Botreaux, brought this to him. He died in the reign of Edward III. William, his grandson, disposed of these lands to John Norbury, Esq., to whom Henry IV. granted leave to make a park here, and then conveyed it to Sir John Say, Knight; from whom it passed in a way similar to that of the manor of Bennington. Henry VIII. granted to Antony Denny the manors of Bedwell and Berkhamstead. This manor continued in the crown till the end of Elizabeth's reign, when she granted to Sir Edward Denny and his heirs all the lands, &c., here held by the Marchioness of Exeter, who had lately been attainted of high treason. He sold it to Humphrey Weld, Esq., citizen and alderman of London. His wife alienated it to Phineas Andrews, Gent., in 1645, who sold it ten years afterwards to George Nevill, of Staple Inn. His daughter and heiress married Cromwell Fleetwood, second son of Charles Fleetwood, Esq., of Newington-green; she died in 1691. It came afterwards to the Marquis of Salisbury.



The rectory is valued in the king's books at 7*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.*, of which the Marquis of Salisbury is patron. The church is situated in the deanery of Hertford and diocese of Lincoln, upon a hill; it contains an aisle, with a chancel at the east end.

#### BEGESFORD, OR BEYFORD.

TOSTI Earl of Northumberland was lord of this manor in the Confessor's time. Upon his death it came to William the Conqueror. It continued in the crown till the reign of Henry I., who gave two parts of the tithes of Effingdon and Beyford to the church of St. Alban's, and the manor to Peter de Valoines. The manor reverted to the crown again in Edward I.'s time. William de Valoines had it again for life during Henry III.'s reign. In Edward III.'s reign William de Scroop was lord of the manor. In Edward IV.'s reign John Knighton had it; from whom it came to Sir George Knighton, who died in 1613, leaving Anne his sole daughter and heiress, who married Sir John Ferrars, Knight, of Sunburne. Thomas Knighton sold the manor to John Mayho, Esq., citizen of London. This manor lies within the dutchy of Lancaster.

The rectory is part of that of Effingdon, and the rector of that place provides a curate to officiate. The church is situated on a hill, having two aisles, covered with tiles.

#### AMWELL MAGNA.

THIS parish and Little Amwell made but one in the reign of the Conqueror. They were probably divided when Little Amwell was given to Waltham-abbey, and this to the church of St. Peter's, Westminster. This monastery held it till the dissolution, when it came to the crown. Sir Edward Denny had it in the reign of Edward VI.; in which family it remained till the beginning of the reign of James I., when Thomas Hobbes, of Gray's Inn, purchased it. His daughter, Susanna, succeeded him in the manor; she married John Fiennes, third son of William Fiennes, Viscount Say and Sele, by whom she had four sons and four daughters: he sold the reversion of this manor to Thomas Filmer, Esq., who died in 1696.



## THE HAMLET OF HALEY.

THIS hamlet was situated in this parish, and was part of the possessions of Goifred de Beck; when he received it, it was worth 10s. a year, and in the Confessor's time 4/. It was part of the possessions of John Sprainger, M.D., who died in 1685: his daughter sold it to James King, brewer, of Whitechapel. The vicarage is very small, and not rated in the king's books. Henry VIII., the patron, made a composition with the vicar, that he and his successors should have five marks a year in lieu of tithes, besides the small tithes and glebe land, which an hundred years since were worth 20/. per annum. The church stands upon the side of a hill, and contains one aisle, with a small tower, in which are three bells. Here are some few charitable donations.

## THELE, OR ST. MARGARET'S.

ABOUT half a mile from Amwell is a parish near the river Lea, called Thele formerly, but now St. Margaret's, which was probably waste ground in the time of the Conqueror, as it is omitted in Domesday-book. In this parish the manor bears the name of the town, and was part of the possessions of John Lovetoft in the reign of Edward I. Shortly after it came to Thomas Eugaine in the reign of Edward III. His sisters were his heiresses, and shared the lands between them. Upon the partition this land came to Joice, wife of John Goldington, who held it in her right. Robert, who gave it the name of Goldington, presented it to the monastery of Merton, in Surry; and upon the dissolution it came to the crown, when Henry VIII. granted it to Edward Baesh, Esq. In this family it remained till it was sold to Edward Laurence, Esq., who died in 1657. After his son's death the manor was sold to Henry Westrow, Esq., whose widow died seised of it in 1689, when it was sold to Francis Roston, Esq. Here was formerly a college, which at the dissolution came to the crown, and the revenue was divided among different persons.

The church is a donative.

HODDESDON.



## HODDESDON.

THIS chapelry stands on a small hill, which gives the name to it, and is situated about two miles from St. Margaret's towards the west, in the parishes of Amwell and Broxbourn. The daughter of Ralph Tailgebosch possessed it in the time of the Conqueror. In the time of the Confessor it was worth 6*l*. It was then in the hundred of Braughing; but before the time of Edward I. it was laid to the hundred of Hertford. At that period Stephen de Brassingbourne was lord of it; this family embattled and fortified the manor-house. Walter de Norwich appears to have been the next possessor of it; he was three times lord-treasurer in the reigns of Edward II. and III. and twice chief baron of the exchequer. In the reign of Henry VII. Sir William Say was the possessor; and after it had devolved to his daughter Mary, married to Henry Bouchier, Earl of Essex, King Henry VIII. granted a weekly market, and a fair of three days annually. The market-house is a very curious building of wood, supported on arches and pillars. This manor was seized by the crown on the attainder of Lord Parre; and Queen Elizabeth afterwards granted it to Robert Cecil, Earl of Salisbury; his descendant, the present Marquis, is now the proprietor. The chapel of Hoddesdon is a neat brick building, erected about twenty years ago. Queen Elizabeth granted here a free grammar-school. Near the market-house is a conduit for water, which was built by the Rawdons of this town, who bequeathed for its repairs a certain annual sum. The number of inhabitants amounts to 1227. The buildings are disposed on the sides of the high road, and form a handsome street; it is a thoroughfare road, and is about 17 miles from London. There is still an annual fair on the 29th of July.

The manor of Base was the ancient seat of Sir William Say, who was lord of it in the time of Edward IV.; and from that time it has passed, with the manor of Hoddesdon, to the same lords.

## BROXBOURN.

THIS parish was anciently called Brooksbourn from the river. In the time of the Conquest, Adelida, the wife of Hugh de Grantsmesnil, possessed it. In the reign of the Confessor it was worth 7*l*. Ivo, their son, gave it to Bermondsey-abbey, in



Surry; but the grant was reassumed by Robert Blanchmaine, Earl of Leicester, who had married Ivo's daughter, and, with the advowson, granted to the knights hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem, who kept possession of it till their dissolution, but granted the church to the bishops of London. Henry VIII. sold the manor of Broxbourn and appurtenances to John Cock, Esq., sheriff of this county and Essex, in the time of Edward VI. His son was knighted by Elizabeth, and left a daughter married to Sir Richard Oxenbridge, who inherited it. Their daughter married Sir John Monson, Knight of the Bath, in Charles I.'s time, and in his family it has continued till Lord Monson died; it now belongs to Jacob Bosanquet, Esq., banker, and director of the East India Company.

The church is appropriated to the peculiar use of the Bishop of London, who has granted an augmentation of 30*l.* per annum to the vicar and his successors. The vicarage is rated at 12*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, and the Bishop of London is patron. The church is situated between the great road and the river Lea, and contains three aisles. It was probably built in the time of Henry VI. It has an octagonal spire, connecting with the chancel at the end of each angle. There are several monuments of the Monson family and others. Sir William Say built the chapel in the reign of Henry VIII., the workmanship of which is in a superior style.

Broxbourn-bury is the seat of Jacob Bosanquet, Esq., and was formerly that of Lord Monson. It has been very much improved within a few years in the modern style, having a new front, and other ornamental additions. It is a spacious building, in the middle of an agreeable park, with a very neat porter's lodge, lately built, belonging to it. Here Sir Henry Cock entertained King James I. in his way from Scotland.

## W O R M L E Y.

ABOUT a mile from Broxbourn this parish is seen: the word signifies a land abounding in worms. It was part of the revenue of Edward the Confessor, who gave it to the canons of Waltham Holy-cross; and they enjoyed it at the time of the Conquest. It was worth 5*l.* at the time of the Confessor. The church of Waltham possessed it till the time of the dissolution, when Henry VIII. granted it to Edward North, Esq., and his heirs. It belongs now to Oliver Cromwell, Esq., of Cheshunt; but is rented by Sir Abraham Hume, Bart., of Wormley-bury,



bury, whose father was created a baronet in 1769, and succeeded his brother in the estate. The mansion is a solid building of brick, with a portico, sustained on four stone columns, of the composite order. The grounds, not extensive, are very pleasant, and a Chinese bridge is built over a beautiful piece of water.

Wormley church is a small building, consisting only of a nave and chancel; it is a rectory valued at 10*l.* 12*s.* 3½*d.* in the king's books. The lords of the manor are patrons.

The manor of Otes has passed with that of Broxbourn to the same lords, the Salisbury family. This parish and Broxbourn are peculiars, and exempt from the jurisdiction of the bishop of the diocese. Here are a few charitable donations. William Purvey, Esq., gave to the rector 20*l.* per annum, and to the poor 100*l.*

## C H E S H U N T.

IN ancient records this parish was called Cestrehunt, from some castle, in all probability, erected here by the Romans. Cheston is another name given to it from chefnut-trees which abounded here; most of the houses in the Conqueror's time were built of that wood. Earl Alan was lord of it at that time. The parish is very extensive, and is an agreeable village, extending chiefly along the sides of the high road, but has many detached buildings. Several Roman coins were discovered here in 1724. Cheshunt contains several manors, the greatest of which was in the Earl Alan. Henry III. detached Cheshunt and other lands, and gave them to the queen's brother, Peter de Savoy, but afterwards gave them back to John Duke of Bretagne, the inheritor of Earl Alan of Richmond. His descendant gave up the earldom to John of Gaunt, who procured here a weekly market, which has been since disused. From this time Cheshunt descended with the honour of Richmond till Henry VIII. granted it to Henry Fitz-Roy, Duke of Richmond and Somerset. Dying without issue, it reverted to the crown, when Edward VI. gave it to Sir John Gates and his heirs; but after his attainder Queen Mary granted it to Sir John Huddleston, who, early in the reign of Elizabeth, sold it to John Cock, Esq., whose son, Sir Henry, had his grant renewed from James I.; from him it descended to the Monson family, and is now the property of Sir George Beeston Prescott, Bart., George Prescott, Esq., having bought about it twenty years since.

The



The manor of Theobalds received its name from some persons who possessed it, but was formerly called Cullinges. The house was built by William Lord Burleigh, lord treasurer of England; it was an elegant piece of workmanship, ornamented with beautiful woods, &c. When King James came from Scotland he staid here while Sir Robert Cecil was the owner of it. The king was so much delighted with it, that he gave the manor of Hatfield in exchange for it with Sir Robert Cecil, Lord Cecil: he frequently visited this place, and enlarged the park, enclosing it with a brick wall, about ten miles in circumference, and at length died here in 1625; but in 1641 it was pulled down at the rebellion. King Charles II. granted the manor to George Duke of Albemarle; after his son's death it reverted to the crown. King William gave it to William Bentinck, Earl of Portland. In 1736 the descendant of John Duke of Montague sold it to Mrs. Letitia Thornhill; from whom it came to the Cromwell family, descendants of Oliver the Protector. The original site of the manor was a small house moated, the traces of which may be seen in the park of Sir George Prescott. Queen Elizabeth visited this seat continually in Burleigh's time, where she was entertained with royal magnificence. Theobalds park is the seat of Sir George Prescott, whose father purchased it in 1762 of the Duke of Portland. Mr. Prescott built a handsome brick edifice on a rising ground, about a mile to the north-west of the site of the old palace, at a short distance from the New River, which runs through the grounds.

The manor of St. Andrew le Mott was part of the revenue of John Walsh, of Chesshunt, who, in Henry VII.'s time, devised it by will to Sir John More, Knight, justice of the Common Pleas, John Joscelin, and others; they granted it and the moiety of Mote to Henry Stafford, Earl of Wiltshire, and heirs; they afterwards conveyed them to the crown. Henry VIII. gave them to Cardinal Wolsey, who resided here in the manor-house; upon his death they reverted to the crown. Henry again gave them to Thomas Denny, Esq., of this parish. John, his son, sold them to George Dacres. The manor continued in this family till Sir Robert Dacres, Knight, sold it to James Earl of Salisbury; his son, the next earl, sold it to Sir Edward Desbovery, who died in possession of it in 1694; his sons sold it to Sir John Shaw, Knight, of the county of Kent, in whose family it now remains. The population of Chesshunt parish, as returned under the late Act, amounted to 3173 persons.

In this parish stood a nunnery near the river Lea, which the canons of Cathele, or Catteley, in Lincolnshire, originally possessed; it was founded by Peter  
de



de Belingey in the reign of King Stephen. Henry III. put nuns of the order of St. Benedict here instead of the former, and made them independent. At the suppression their annual revenue amounted to 27*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, which Dugdale records only at 14*l.* 1*s.* Edward VI. granted it to Antony Denny, Esq.; from that family it came to Robert Dewhurst, Esq., who gave it to Anne Gill; John Gill, her son, sold it to John Mortimer; it has since come to the late Mrs. Blackwood, who lived here, and was famous for a good collection of paintings by the best masters. The remains of the nunnery form part of a large mansion, which has been erected at various times, and contains some elegant rooms. The grounds are laid out with much taste, and the river Lea forms a canal in front of the house.

The manor of the rectory was part of the possessions of the dean and chapter of Westminster, who sold it for 40*l.*, with the right of patronage and advowson, to Antony Denny, Esq., to hold of the king by fealty of 10*l.* per annum, to be paid to the court of first fruits. He conveyed the rectory to George Dacres. In James I.'s time Henry Atkins, M. D., had it from this family; he soon after sold it to Sir Edward Scot; Sir Edward Desbovery purchased it of him; in his family it remained; the advowson was conveyed to the Earls of Salisbury: it is now the property of the Marquis of Salisbury.

The church of Cheshunt is a handsome building, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and was built in the time of Henry VI. by Nicolas Dixon, rector of the parish; it is rated at 26*l.* In the reign of James I. that king granted to the vicar 55*l.* per annum in lieu of tithes, which he laid to Theobalds park. The church is in the deanery of Braughing, in the diocese of London, and consists of a body and aisle on each side, a chancel at the east end, and a tower at the west, with a ring of six bells. Here are several monuments worth the attention of the curious, and some benefactions to the parish. Near the church is a house formerly inhabited by the Protector Richard Cromwell, who took the name of Clark after his return from the Continent: in this he lived during the remainder of his life in retirement; and here he died in 1712. Here are alms-houses built by King James. Robert Dewhurst erected a free-school for poor children of the parish; Sir Edmund Scot gave 200*l.* to be laid out in lands for poor children's education; Humphrey Flint gave 200*l.* for the purchase of lands for impotent poor; Roger Jackson in 1616 gave 10*s.* a year to the minister, and other small things; Richard Coulter gave 100*l.* to be laid out in



lands, 4*l.* 10*s.* to the poor, and 10*s.* to the minister; Mrs. Catharine Drywood gave 100*l.* for the poor's benefit; Dame Jane Micoe gave 100*l.* to purchase lands for the poor.

#### THE HUNDRED OF BROADWATER.

**T**HIS hundred extends from Baldock on the north, to Totteridge on the south, and is twenty-two miles in length; it is bounded on the north by the hundred of Odsey, the hundreds of Braughing and Hertford on the east; on the south by Middlesex, and on the west by the hundreds of Cassio and Hitchin. It derives its name from the parish of Broadwater, and the parishes are divided between three high constables. But as part of this hundred extends beyond our limits, we shall describe those parishes which immediately fall under observation.

#### TOTTERIDGE.

**T**HIS place was so called by the Saxons, from its situation upon the ridge of a hill. It was formerly waste ground belonging to the king's revenue at Hatfield. As there is no mention of it in Domesday-book, King Edgar might convey it to the church of Ely under the name of Hatfield; for this church enjoyed it till the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when the bishop of that diocese passed it away to that queen, with the manor of Hatfield, in consideration of an annuity granted to the bishops of that see. Elizabeth, in the thirty-second year of her reign, granted it to John Cage; from whom it came to — Peacock; his widow sold it to Sir Paul Whichcote. Robert Taylor, one of the tellers of the exchequer, built a good house here; but being indebted to the crown, the house was seized, and Queen Elizabeth sold it to Hugh Hare, Esq., whose grandson was created Baron Coleraine in Ireland. Totteridge park has passed through various hands, and is now the pleasant seat of William Lee Antonie, Esq. It was originally a hunting-box belonging to Lord Bateman, of whom Sir William Lee purchased it.

The tithes of this parish are paid to the rector of Hatfield, who provides a curate here:



here: the church is situated on a hill near the middle of the town, containing a body, with a small building of wood at the west end; in it are three bells, with a short wooden spire.

### H A T F I E L D.

FROM the barrenness of the soil and the situation upon a hill, the Saxons called this place Heathfield, now Hatfield. The Saxon kings were in possession of it till King Edgar bestowed it on the monks of Ely, and enriched that church with such large revenues, that it was equal to any in England. In the time of the Confessor it was worth 30*l.* per annum. When Henry I. converted this monastery into a bishoprick, he attached it to that see, and the manor-house became a bishop's palace, and the town was distinguished by the name of Bishop's Hatfield. When Henry VIII. died, the Earl of Hertford came here, with others of the nobility, where Edward VI. was educated. At the time of Queen Mary's death, Elizabeth resided here. She procured the alienation of this manor from the Bishop of Ely. The year following King James exchanged it with Sir Robert Cecil, Knight, for Theobalds; and it is now in that family in the Marquis of Salisbury.

The manor of Wood-hall was so called from the abundance of timber found here. It was part of the possessions of the ancient family of the Bassingburns, who held it of the manor of Hatfield. It came by marriage to Thomas Gaudy, who afterwards sold it to Sir John Boteler, Knight, who held it in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. It continued in this family till 1690, when Sir Francis Boteler dying, the manor came to Julian Shallcross, widow, his daughter. It is now the property of the Marquis of Salisbury.

The manor of Punsborne is situated in a low bottom, and was part of the possessions of John Fortescue in the reign of Henry VI. After the death of Henry Fortescue it came to the crown, where it remained till Queen Elizabeth granted it to Sir Henry Cock, then valued at 12*l.* per annum. He devised it with others to Sir Robert Oxenbridge and others in trust for ten years, with remainder to Sir Edward Lucy, who had married Frances, his eldest daughter. Their issue was Elizabeth, married to Sir John Ferrers, Knight, one of the gentlemen of the privy chamber to Queen Elizabeth and James I., and then to Charles I., by which he became lord in right of his wife, and died in 1640; it was afterwards sold to Stephen Ewre and Joshua Lomax, who granted it to Richard Woollaston, Esq., of Gray's Inn; he and his son



alienated it to Paris Slaughter, citizen of London, who repaired and beautified the house, and died in 1693, leaving a son and heir.

The manor of Popes and Holbeach was part of the manor of Effendon, and sold to Holbeach; afterwards to Pope; from both of whom it was denominated, to preserve the names and memory of the owners. It was next the property of William Stalworth; then of Richard Hall from marriage; it passed through different hands, being divided, till William Tooke, Esq., who purchased the whole, came into possession of it. The manor of Popes descended to Ralph, his heir, who dying without issue, it came to his brother George; in 1664 Thomas sold it to Stephen Ewre and Joshua Ewre, Esq., who next year disposed of it to Daniel Shawterden, Esq., of Eltham, in Kent.

The manor of Astwick was part of the revenues of the Bassingburne family; it afterwards came into the possession of the Hares. William Grunwild possessed it about the year 1638, and sold it to Dios, an ironmonger in London; his son disposed of it to Sir Henry Tulse, Knight, lord mayor of London.

The manor of Symonds Hide was in the possession of Simon Fitz-Ade, who was lord of it in 1239. He had issue John Fitz-Simon. In this family it continued till Nicholas Fitz-Simonds left an only daughter, who married William Ash, Esq., by whom she had issue Elizabeth, her heiress, married to Sir Thomas Bocket, in whose right he enjoyed the manor; it remained with this family till it came by marriage to Richard Spencer; and from him it passed to Sir John Spencer.

The manor of Holdwell and Ludwick was in the possession of Sir Humphrey Wild, Knight, who held that of Ludwick, with appurtenances, of the manor of Hatfield.

Brocket-hall was the ancient seat of the Brockets, situated upon a dry hill in a fair park, well wooded, enclosed with a brick wall on the west side of the road for the length of a mile, and pleasantly watered by the river Lea. It came to Thomas Read by marriage of Sir John Bocket's daughter. It is now the property and seat of Lord Melbourne, and is about two miles and a half from Hatfield. The old house is pulled down, and a handsome dwelling built. The park and grounds are very beautiful.

Hatfield-house, the residence of the Marquis of Salisbury, is beautifully situated in a richly diversified park, and includes an area of several miles in circumference; it is  
watered



watered on the north side by the river Lea; the mansion is of great extent, and composed of brick; it was built by Robert Cecil, first Earl of Salisbury, about the years 1605 and 1611, when the manor came into his hands by exchange with James I. It is in the form of half an H, and many additions have been made of late years, particularly by the last earl, who restored the magnificence of the venerable edifice, which had fallen considerably into decay. Many of the apartments are large, and ornamented with pictures of great merit. The park and grounds are filled with some of the finest timber in the county. Here were originally two parks, in one of which was a vineyard, the other was for red and fallow deer. King Charles I. was a prisoner here. The Marchioness is extremely fond of agriculture, and has for that purpose fenced in about seventeen acres for the purpose of experiments. The ground was laid out in the year 1795, and has been chiefly used for the purpose of producing vegetables, &c. This noble family is sprung from the great Chancellor Burleigh in Elizabeth's time. The manor-house of Hatfield Wood-hall is now taken down.

The church of Hatfield is erected near the town, in the deanery of Hatfield, and in the diocese of Lincoln; it is in the form of a cross. A tower at the west end contains five bells. A chapel at the north side was erected by the Earl of Salisbury. The church contains many monuments. The rectory is valued in the king's books at 36*l.* 2*s.* per annum; it is now worth 1000*l.* per annum: the Marquis of Salisbury is patron.

### DIGSWELL.

ABOUT four miles to the north of Hatfield is the village of Digswell; it lies in a bottom, on the south side of the river Maran, or Mimeram; it was so called from the springs of water which bubble out of the ground in this parish, which the Saxons called Wells. In the Conqueror's time Geoffrey de Mandeville and Peter de Valoines possessed the manor; it was then worth 4*l.* per annum. Laurence of St. Nicholas was the next lord of the manor; he had it in the reign of Edward I.; he had one market every week, and a fair for ten days together every year in Henry III.'s time. The Perient family had it next in the reign of Richard II.: it remained with them for some time, till Thomas Perient, Esq., sheriff of this county and Essex, died in 1536, leaving the manor to two daughters, Mary, the wife of George Horley,



Horsey, and Anne, wife of Antony Carlton; of Ralph Horsey this was purchased by Sir George Perient, a branch of the former family; sheriff in 1604: he conveyed it to Richard Sidley, Esq. Humphrey Shallcrofs, Esq., purchased it of William Sidley, Esq., in the reign of Charles II. Digswell house is in a pleasant situation, and the seat of Thomas Shallcrofs, Esq. In 1781 the manor was sold to Earl Cowper.

The rectory is rated in the king's books at 7*l.* 4*s.* per annum; the lords of the manor have been always patrons. The church is in a bottom near the manor-house, in the deanery of Hertford, and diocese of Lincoln; it has a square tower at the west end, with three bells, and a short spire is erected upon it. It is dedicated to St. John the Evangelist.

### W E L W Y N.

THIS place, within twenty-four miles of London, was the town where the massacre of the Danes began in 1012; from which circumstance it received the name, because the weal of the county was thus preserved; but the Saxons long before called it Welves, from the many springs which arise here. In the Confessor's time the parson held the manor of King Edward by free alms, and it was in the jurisdiction of this church, as it was in the time of the Conqueror. The advowson belongs to the college of All Souls, Oxford. Dr. Young, author of *Night Thoughts*, was rector here in 1730, and retained it till his death in 1765: that poem was chiefly composed here, as well as his other pieces. He was buried here near the body of his wife, Lady Elizabeth Lee. A good monument is erected in the church to their memories by his son.

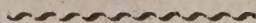
The manor of Mardley-bury King William bestowed upon Geoffrey de Besh; it was then worth 50*s.* a year, but in the Confessor's time 6*l.* It came afterwards to Philip de Mardley, from whom it took its name. He granted it to William de Bernet, clerk, consisting of 140 acres of land, and 3 of wood, by the rent of a clove gilliflower. Shortly after it was in the possession of Bartholomew Baddlesmere, in the reign of Edward II. Upon partition afterwards it came to Margaret, wife of John Tiptoft, his sister. It devolved to the crown upon the attainder of the daughter of Lord Mountjoy in Henry VIII.'s reign. That king granted it to Sir John Throckmorton; and it was afterwards sold to the Lytton family.

Lockleys



Lockleys manor was so called from an owner, and was purchased by Edward Wingate, Esq.; his son adorned the seat, and improved the grounds in the time of Charles I. The Perient family were owners of it formerly, and it is now the seat of Charles Gardner, Esq. The mansion is pleasantly situated at a short distance from the river Maran, on the east side. The parish of Welwyn, according to the late returns, contained 1015 inhabitants.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin, and is rated in the king's books at 21*l.* yearly value: it is situated near the middle of the town, in the deanery of Hertford, and diocese of London; and contains two aisles covered with lead, with a chancel at the east end; a square tower, with a ring of five bells, was formerly on the north side, but has since fallen down. Here are some small benefactions to the church and parish.



#### AYOT MONTFICHET, AYOT ST. PETERS, AND LITTLE AYOT.

ABOUT two miles from Welwyn towards the west is the parish of Ayot St. Peter's; in Domesday-book it is recorded as the Terra Baiosensis; it was at that time in the hundred of Braughing, and was held of the Bishop of Bayeux; it was worth 20*s.* a year then, and in the Confessor's time 30*s.* By the records it appears that this was a watery place, for here was a mill, and a pool which yielded 200 eels a year for rent. The parish was called Eye formerly, which signifies a watery ground. In the time of Henry II. the manor and estate was in the possession of Richard Montfichet; he died without issue, and his sisters were coheiresses, among whom his lands were divided; from him it took the name of Montfichet. In a short time after it came by that name to William de Ayete, who had a fair granted here. John Lancaster had the moiety of the manor afterwards, and John Yeland and Ralph, the son of Walter, had the other, with the advowson of the church. Nicholas Corbet after this obtained it; and since that it came to John Poteyn; it has been dismembered, and divided among many persons since that period; some part of it went to the Brocket family, from whom it passed to Sir James Read, Bart.; another part was sold to Thomas Perient, Esq.; his descendants conveyed it to Rowland Hale, Esq.



The rectory was rated in the king's books at 8*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* per annum: the lords of the manor are the patrons. The church is situated upon a dry hill, not far from the rivers Lea and Maran; a short spire is erected on the tower.

### GREAT AYOT, OR AYOT ST. LAURENCE.

THIS parish stands among the woods upon a hill, about a mile distant from the preceding parish. It was part of Earl Harold's possessions in the Confessor's time. The Conqueror gave part of it to the reeve of the hundred, and the residue to Robert de Gernon, a Norman. In the Confessor's time it was worth 6*l.* a year. Shortly after this manor returned to the crown, and Henry I. granted it to Radhere, a man of wit, but low birth, and afterwards a great enthusiast. He gave the lands to the priory of St. Bartholomew; at the dissolution of that monastery, Henry VIII. granted it, as it had fallen to the crown, with the advowson of the church, to John Brocket, John Alway, and Nicholas Bristow, in fee; the latter lived to a great age: it continued in his family till the beginning of the eighteenth century, when Thomas Lewis, Esq., purchased it; and at his death it was sold to Cornelius Lyde, Esq., in whose family it remains. Samuel Lyde is the present possessor. The mansion is of brick, situated in a small park.

The church stands on a dry hill in the middle of the parish, in the deanery of Hertford, and diocese of Lincoln; it is dedicated to St. Laurence, and is valued in the king's books at 7*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* per annum. At the east end of the church are two chancels; there is a chapel belonging to the Bristow family. At the west end is a square tower, with a spire, and two small bells. There are some monuments in the inside to the Bristow family, and others. The late Sir Lionel Lyde erected a church here, after the Grecian style, in the year 1778. The ground-plan of the old church is very singular, being in the form of an oblong square, or nearly a double cube, divided into two parts by arches, and the eastern part separated into two chancels.

### DATCHWORTH.

IN ancient times some of the Saxon kings granted four hides in this parish to the monastery of St. Peter's, in Westminster; the name of Datchworth came from the



manſion of ſome poſſeſſor, as the laſt ſyllable in the Saxon language imports. It was worth 60s. a year in the Confeſſor's time. Gilbert de Prochin and his wife granted the church to that of St. Alban's; and others gave lands here to that church; which grants were confirmed by Henry I. The abbots of Weſtminſter enjoyed this manor till the diſſolution, when it came to Henry VIII., who changed it into a biſhoprick; but Thomas Thirlby, the new biſhop, dilapidating all its patrimony, the biſhoprick was diſſolved, and Edward VI. granted it to Nicholas Ridley, then Biſhop of London, and his heirs, paying yearly to the king 100l.: in this fee it has remained.

Datchworth-bury, which is the court baron of this manor, was in the poſſeſſion of Richard Connet, Eſq., of Suffex, in the time of Henry VII.; from whom it was conveyed to Forſter; in this family it continued till it was ſold to John Gamon, clerk, of Aſton; in the reign of James I. his ſon and heir ſold it to William Wallis, Eſq.

The manor of Thetchworth, or Theiſcote, was in the poſſeſſion of Robert de Olgi in the time of the Conqueror, which he had as a reward for his valour in aſſiſting him to obtain the crown of England. How long it continued with him is not known, and all accounts of the manor are uncertain. In Henry II.'s reign Henry was the lord of it; he was his brother's grandſon. This place is ſometimes called Datchworth.

The rectory was granted in 1347 by Thomas Delamere, abbot of St. Alban's, with the conſent of the convent, to the King and his heirs; in conſideration of which the king releaſed to them one penſion of 5l. per annum, which was claimed, becauſe his anceſtors had founded the abbey. The advowſon was afterwards granted to Lord Morley; upon whoſe death it came to his ſiſter, who married Sir Edward Howard, Knight; they in Henry VII.'s reign ſold it to Sir William Capell, Knight; from whom it came to the Earl of Eſſex. The rectory was valued in the king's books at 14l. 13s. 8d. per annum. The church ſtands on a great hill, in the deanery of Hertford, in the dioceſe of Lincoln, and contains a body, with a chancel at the eaſt, and a ſquare tower at the weſt end.



## W A T T O N.

IN a vale upon the river Bene, or Benefician, is Watton, distant from Datchworth about three miles. The name is derived from the springs which abound there, which considerably augment the stream; for wat, in the Saxon language, signifies a moist and watery place. In the Conqueror's time it was divided between that prince, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Abbot of Westminster, and the Earl Alan. Peter de Valoines had the chief of the estate in the reign of Henry I. Lora, wife of Alexander Balioll, upon the partition of the estate at Peter's death, being his daughter, inherited that share of the manor of Watton: he was brother to the King of Scotland, and granted it to Robert Aquilon in the reign of Henry III., who claimed a fair here every year for three days together. Henry de la Mire marrying his daughter, had the manor in Edward I.'s reign; but in the same reign it came to the possession of Eudo Pellitot; from this family it came to Ralph Boteler by marriage, who had resided at Oversley, in Warwickshire, in the reign of Henry I. It continued in this family till the year 1778, when Sir Thomas Rumbold, Bart., late governor of Madras, purchased it of John Palmer Boteler, Esq., who died in 1791. It was afterwards sold by the trustees of him to Paul Benfield, Esq.; and has been since disposed of to Samuel Smith, Esq., the present possessor. The estate, when purchased by Sir Thomas Rumbold, consisted of about 5000 acres; it lately sold for 150,000*l.* without the timber, which Sir Thomas bought with it for 85,000*l.*

The manor of Bardolfes is so called from a family, who were lords of it many years, Hugh Bardolfe, in the reign of Edward I., was a man of great consequence, and had this manor at that time. Thomas, in the reign of Richard II., dying, left Anne and Joan, his daughters, heiresses; the former, married to Sir William Clifford, Knight; the latter, to William Phillip: they alone held this manor, and had issue Elizabeth, married to Henry Beaumont, who was created a viscount by Henry VI. The manor came to the crown on the attainder of Henry, his son, who had the title of Lord Bardolfe, when Edward IV. granted it to Roger Ree, Esq.; from his son it was conveyed to John Boteler, who was at that time lord of the former manor, called Watton Wood-hall; from which family it has passed with the other.

Watton Wood-hall is situated in one of the most delightful spots in the county; it is a large and elegant mansion, standing on a hill, watered by several streams, and  
varied



varied with rising grounds. The woods are particularly luxuriant and extensive. In the year 1772 the old mansion of the Boteler family was destroyed by fire; it was a large pile of brick, with a quadrangle in the middle; the gallery was 300 feet in length. Sir Thomas Rumbold built the present mansion, and fitted it up with great elegance.

The rectory is valued in the king's books at 19*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* per annum: the lords of the manor have been the patrons. The church stands on the side of a hill near the town, in the deanery of Hertford, and diocese of Lincoln; on the north side of the chancel is a chapel, and a tower adjoining the west end; it has a ring of six bells. There are many monuments of the Botelers and other families in this church.

In a place called Wellwood, lying between a farm called Broomhall, in this parish, and the parish of Datchworth, is a deep well without water. Here entrenchments have been made; and it is supposed that the Danes had a camp here; for not far from hence there is a field called Danesfield, where a great battle was fought between the Danes and English. The soil of this parish is chiefly gravel, and abounds much in wood and timber. Here are some few charitable donations.

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S A C O M B E.

THIS parish, called Suevecamp in Domesday-book, from Suavis Campus, pleasant field, from its fertility and agreeable situation, is about two miles distant from Watton on the west; and in the time of the Conqueror was the property of Peter de Valoines; from whose family it passed by marriage into that of Comyne. Eufemia marrying William de la Beck, dying in 1361, left an only daughter and heiress, married to Sir Roger Elsmugg, who held this manor and the advowson of the church in the fortieth year of Edward III.'s reign: he dying, she conveyed them to Sir John Holt, justice of the Common Pleas, in Richard II.'s time. He was attainted and banished, by which means this manor was forfeited and seized into the king's hands, and granted to John Corbet for a short time. It afterwards came into the possession of the Babthorpe family of Yorkshire, who possessed it in the fifteenth year of Henry VI.; one of them died in Henry VII.'s reign; Isabel was his sole heiress, married to William Plompton, Esq.; from whose descendants it was purchased by Sir Robert Boteler, of Watton Wood-hall. He died possessed of it in 1622; and Jane, his daughter,

daughter, conveyed it in marriage to John Lord Bellasis, of Wortaby, in Lincolnshire, who was a general in the reign of Charles I. By him it was sold to Sir John Gore, who, in James II.'s reign, sold it again to Sir Thomas Rolt, of a Bedfordshire family, and president of the East India Company in Surat. Thomas, his great-grandson, dying in 1758, it came to two sisters, coheiresses; Mary, the only sister who had issue, married Timothy Caswall, Esq., L. L. D., one of the commissioners of excise, and some time representative for Hertford, who died in possession of the manor in 1802, and was succeeded by his son George Caswall, Esq., the present possessor. The old manor-house, which was situated in Sacombe park, was demolished by the late Mr. Caswall, who erected the present residence, called Cold Harbour, which stands some short distance from it. The rectory is valued at 10*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* per annum in the king's books: the lords of the manor are patrons. The church is dedicated to St. Catharine, and is situated on a dry hill, in the deanery of Hertford, in the diocese of Lincoln. It has a tower erected on the south side, in which are three bells. The Rev. Mr. Merton, who died in 1669, gave 100*l.* in land for interest, to put out an apprentice of the parish.

MUNDON PARVA.

THIS parish, otherwise called Mundane Frewel, lies in a bottom, about a mile and a half distant from Sacombe on the north: the name is probably derived from the vale, where a great part of the houses are sheltered under the hill, on both sides. Mund, in the Saxon language, signifies a safe place; and dane, a valley. It belonged in the Conqueror's time to Walter Flandrensis, who assisted that prince in his expedition against this kingdom. In the Confessor's reign it was worth 8*l.* a year. The manor was afterwards granted to one Frewel, who held it of the king; from this family it took the name. In the reign of Edward III. it was in the possession of Reginald de Grey, Lord of Wilton, in Herefordshire. It continued in this family till the time of Henry VII., when Sir William Say purchased both this and that of Great Mundane, with the advowsons of both churches; from him this manor passed as the manor of Bennington did, until it came to Michael Woodcock, Esq. He first by mortgage, and afterwards by the entire sale, disposed of the manor to Sir Peter Vanlore, who gave it in marriage, with his daughter, to Sir Charles Cæsar. But it
came

came back afterwards to Edmund Woodhall, whose daughter married — Woodcock. By marriage it afterwards came to — Thornton.

The manor of Libury was formerly called Sutreheld, and since, Haultwick, from its high situation. Henry de Grey, Lord of Wilton, was lord of the manor in Edward II.'s reign. It continued in this family till Edward Hill, Gent., and Ralph Lathom, citizen of London, purchased it; from Lathom's family it came to various persons, Brockman, Beresford, and Spence; the latter of whom held it in Charles II.'s time.

The rectory is valued in the king's books at 15*l.* per annum: the lords of the manor are the patrons. The church stands on a hill in the middle of the parish, in the deanery of Baldock, and diocese of Lincoln. It has a square tower at the west end, with five bells.

G R E A T M U N D O N.

THIS parish, also called Mundon Furnival, is situated about a mile and a half distant from Little Mundon towards the north-east: it is so called from the hill on which the church stands. William the Conqueror gave it to Earl Alan, who possessed it at the time of the survey: it was then worth 16*l.* a year. This manor was part of the earldom of Richmond, and passed with that honour till it came to Constance, daughter and heiress of Conan Alan: she married Geoffrey, fourth son of Henry II., King of England. After the king had retained the earldom some time, he disposed of it, with the revenues, to Gerrard de Furnival, from whom it derived the additional name. He was a younger son of Furnival of Sheffield, and was at the siege of Acre in the Holy Land with King Richard I. His son died in Henry III.'s reign; upon which the king assigned it to the Lady Nicola de Haya; she was an eminent lady, very loyal to King John in his troubles with the barons. In Edward III.'s reign it was in Reginald de Grey, Lord of Wilton; his descendant sold it to John Fray and his heirs. In Henry VII.'s reign the manor was in the possession of Sir William Say, Knight, and passed from him as the manors of Roweny and Bennington did, till they returned to the crown, where it continued till a lease of the demesnes was granted to William Earl of Salisbury for three lives. The manor, royalties, and demesnes, were sold to Edward Arris, surgeon, of London, and the quit-rents granted to Edward Earl of Sandwich. The Arris family afterwards sold their share to Robert Hadgeley, Esq.

Rownea priory was founded in 1164 by Conan Duke of Brittany for nuns of the Benedictine order, and dedicated to St. John the Baptist. The prioress and nuns held it till Henry VI.'s reign, when the revenues were so much decreased, that Agnes Selby, the prioress, obtained the king's licence to resign her estates to John Fray, chief baron of the Exchequer, who applied them to found a chantry of one priest in the parish church. In Henry VIII.'s time the yearly income of it was 13*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.* The hall still remains, though the priory was converted into a farm. The site of the chapel may be also seen near the farm-house. In Charles I.'s reign it came to — Birchinghead, whose son sold it to — Browne, Esq., of the Inner Temple.

The church stands upon a hill in the middle of the parish, in the deanery of Baldock, and diocese of Lincoln. It has a square tower at the west end, with a small spire. The rectory is valued at 21*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.* per annum in the king's books. The king was formerly patron, till James II. in 1687 granted the advowson to John Lord Churchill and Thomas Dowcra, Esq., upon trust, to present to it the rector of St. Alban's.

B E N N I N G T O N .

THIS parish is about two miles distant from Great Mundon on the west, and stands upon an eminence. It probably has its name from the river Bene which flows there. In Domesday-book it was called Belineton, and was a seat at that time of the kings of Mercia. Bertulfe, one of the kings, often resided in his palace here about the year 850. In the time of the Confessor it was held by Almar, surnamed De Belintone; but when the Conqueror subdued the country, he gave this manor to Peter de Valoines: it was then worth 12*l.* a year. Here was a priest at that time, and a park of deer. Peter de Valoines, his grandson, left a daughter, his heiress, married to Alexander de Baliol, who in the reign of Edward I. conveyed this manor to John Benstede. In this king's reign a charter of a market weekly and a fair annually was granted; the former is no longer used. John de Benstede was a judge of the court of Common Pleas in Edward II.'s reign: in his family this manor remained for several generations; but early in the reign of Henry VII. it was sold to Sir William Say, Knight. Sir William had issue two daughters, Elizabeth, married to William Lord Mountjoy, and Mary, to Henry Bouchier, Earl of Essex; the former had a daughter; after whose death the manor devolved to Anne, daughter

of Mary Countess of Essex. This lady married Sir William Parre, who thus became possessed of the estates. He was Lord Parre of Kendal, and afterwards created Earl of Essex. His children by Anne were bastardized by act of parliament; yet he was made Marquis of Northampton and Chamberlain of England. He was condemned to die for supporting Lady Jane Grey, but respited and restored at length to life; but his estates were forfeited. Queen Elizabeth granted the reversion of this manor to Walter Viscount Hereford to hold in soccage by a yearly rent of 44*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.*, which had before by Mary been granted in trust for Anne Viscountess Bouchier and Lady Lovaine for forty years, provided the marquis lived so long. Lord Hereford was afterwards advanced to the title of Earl of Essex. He dying in 1576 left Bennington to his widow, who in the thirty-seventh year of Queen Elizabeth's reign, with her husband, then Sir Christopher Blount, and Robert Earl of Essex, the Queen's favourite, her eldest son, conveyed it to Thomas Crompton, Esq., and heirs. It soon after again reverted to the Earl of Essex. In James I.'s reign Richard Earl of Clanrickard, in right of his wife Frances, widow of Robert Earl of Essex, possessed it, to whose son Robert, third Earl of Essex, it afterwards came, and continued in him till his divorce from Lady Frances Howard in 1613. Sir Julius Cæsar, Knight, then purchased it of him in order to pay off his wife's portion for the sum of 14,000*l.* Sir Julius was master of the rolls in 1610, and died in 1636. His son had the manor, and was also master of the rolls in 1638; he had fifteen children by two wives, and died of the small-pox in 1643. Henry, his son, was next heir, and represented the county in 1660: he also died of that disorder, as did several others of that family. It continued in this family till 1744, when it was sold by trustees under his will, to the trustees of the will of Sir John Cheshire, Knight, whose son Robert married one of the daughters and coheiresses of Mr. Charles Cæsar; John Cheshire, Esq., his great nephew, is the present proprietor, and lives in a small mansion near the site of the ancient castle at Bennington, which stood to the west of the church, and probably was upon the spot where the palace of the Saxon kings was built. The ditch and the mount of the keep still remain. The old manor-house, which was inhabited by the Cæsars, stood in the park, but was burnt down about forty years ago, and a smaller building erected on the site, for some time occupied by Mr. Bullock.

Bennington rectory is rated in the king's books at 19*l.* per annum: the lords of the manor have been always patrons. The church is situated in the town, near the manor-

manor-house. It is dedicated to St. Peter, and is a small building. It consists of a nave and chancel, with a chapel and tower at the west end, and a chapel connected with the chancel at the north. Here are some old monuments worthy observation, both of the Cæsars and Benstedes; the latter of which family are supposed to have built the church.

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### A S T O N.

THIS village, situated on a hill, on the west of the river Bene, or Benefician, about two miles from Walkern, was so called by the Saxons from its situation to the east of some of the neighbouring parishes. In the Conqueror's time it was part of the revenues of the Bishop of Bayeux; and in the Confessor's time was worth 20*l.* per annum. After the death of the Conqueror, who had it on account of the bishop's revolting against him, it was given to the monks of Reading by Adeliza, queen of Henry I., who kept possession of it till their dissolution, when Henry VIII. granted it to Sir John Boteler of Watton Wood-hall. The house is built of brick, with chimnies curiously ornamented.

The rectory is valued in the king's books at 26*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* per annum; and the lords of the manor are patrons. The church stands upon a hill, in the middle of the parish, in the deanery of Baldock, and diocese of Lincoln: it only contains the body and chancel, with a tower at the west end, and five bells, with a small shaft upon the tower.

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K N E B W O R T H.

THIS parish is situated upon a pleasant hill, about two miles westward of Aston, in Domesday-book called Chenepsworde, for at that time the letter K was not known, but was expressed by Ch; it is derived from the habitation of some ancient possessor. Eudo Dapifer had it in the time of the Conqueror: at that time it was worth 10*l.* per annum. From him it passed to William de Mandeville. Robert de Hoo was the next lord of it; he obtained a charter for a weekly market here in the twentieth of Edward I., and free warren in all his demesne lands of Knebworth and Harpenden

Harpenden in this county. In Edward II.'s reign Thomas de Brotherton possessed it: he died in the reign of Edward III., and left two daughters his heiresses; Margaret, the eldest, had this manor on partition, married to John de Segrave; and after his death, to Sir Walter Manny; she held the manor at his death, and was created Duchefs of Norfolk: after her death John de Hotoft possessed the manor; he was member in several parliaments for this county in the reign of Henry V. and VI., and was sheriff in the 7th of Henry VI.'s reign. Sir Thomas Bouchier shortly after obtained the manor; he sold it to Robert Lytton, Esq., of the county of Derby, and keeper of the wardrobe to Henry VII. It remained in this family till Sir William Lytton's death in 1705, when Judith, his eldest sister and coheirs, wife of Sir Nicholas Strode, brought it into his family, where it remained till the death of Lytton Strode, Esq., their grandson, who, dying without issue, left it to William Robinson, Esq., his cousin, who took the name of Lytton, and was succeeded by his son; he died in 1762 without issue surviving, when the estate came to the present possessor, Richard Warburton Lytton, Esq., son of Barbara, daughter of William Robinson, Esq. The seat of the Lyttons is called Knebworth-place. The manor-house is built of brick in the form of a quadrangle, in the middle of which is a court; the front presents a castellated pile of greater antiquity than the rest of the building.

The church was dedicated to the Virgin Mary: it contains only a body and chancel, with a small chapel or burying-place, built by the Lyttons on the north side of the chancel. At the west end is a square tower, with five small bells. It is at a short distance from the manor-house. It contains some good monuments to the Lytton and other families. The rectory is valued in the king's books at 13*l.* 1*s.* 10½*d.*, of which the lords of the manor have been patrons.

HITCHIN HUNDRED.

THIS hundred contains only one parish which falls within our limits. Stagenhoe and Paul's Walden are the only places to be described; the former of which lies in the parish of St. Paul's Walden.

PAUL'S WALDEN.

THIS parish, otherwise called Abbots Walden, was given by King Offa to the monastery of St. Alban, to which it remained attached till the dissolution. After this Henry VIII. granted it to St. Paul's church in London, to which foundation it yet belongs. An ancient mansion here formerly was possessed by a family named Gilbert, which they held under that church; from them it passed by an heiress to the family of Bowes, in the county of Durham; from them it came to the family of Strathmore, by the marriage of Mary Eleanor, daughter and heiress of George Bowes, Esq., to the Earl of Strathmore. This house was occupied by the Duke of St. Alban's.

Stagenhoe lies in this parish, and was formerly part of the possessions of the Verdun family: it lies in the half-hundred of Hitchin, where it is charged with extraordinary taxes. John de Verdun had the manor in Edward I.'s reign; from that family it came to the Pilkingtons, of Pilkington, in Lancashire, who kept possession of it till the reign of Henry VII., when Sir Thomas Pilkington, Knight, taking part with Lambert Simnel, the counterfeit Plantagenet, and fighting by his side in the battle of Stoke, near Newark, in 1487, was slain there; upon which, his estate was seized by the crown. The king granted it soon after to George Lord Strange, son of the Earl of Derby; from whom it came by purchase to the family of Godfrey, who sold it to Richard Hale, Esq., of King's Walden, whose son gave it to John Hale, sheriff of the county in 1663. Rose, his daughter and heiress, marrying Sir John Austen, Bart., of Bexley, Kent, it came to his possession. Their son sold it to Robert Heysham, Esq., who died in 1734 without issue; he left it by will to Giles Thornton, of St. Botolph's, London, who took the name of Heysham, and whose grandson, Robert Thornton Heysham, is the present possessor. The house was built by Sir John Hale, Knight, about the year 1650; it is a handsome edifice, and stands in a small park.

EDWINSTREE HUNDRED.

THIS hundred was so denominated from the great road or street Erminestreet, which crosses this hundred. Erminestreet was one of the four famous ways which the Romans made in England. This was doubtless called Hermanstreet, signifying the military road leading to the northern parts of the island from the south. The hundred is bounded on the north and west by that of Odsey, on the east by the counties of Essex and Cambridge, and on the south by the hundred of Braughing. It is divided between two high constables. Very few parishes are within the compass of this work.

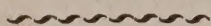
FURNEAUX PELHAM.

THE first parish which falls within our account is that of Furneaux Pelham, which at the time of the Conquest was with Brent Pelham and Stocking Pelham but one parish; they were at that time divided into seven parcels, all held of the Bishop of London. It is not known how they were alienated from that see; but in the reign of Henry III. Simon de Furneaux possessed the whole; the name of Furneaux Pelham was derived from him; from the Furneaux family this manor passed with that of Brent Pelham by an heiress to Sir John de la Lee, member of parliament for the county in Edward III.'s reign: from this family it came to Robert Newport, Esq., in Richard I.'s reign; he was knight of the shire in Henry IV.'s reign; and in his descendants this manor continued till the time of Henry VIII., when it came by marriage to the Parker family. Sir William Parker, Lord Mounteagle, sold it to Edward Newport in 1616; he was descended from the former family. The manor-house, called Pelham-hall, with the parks and appurtenances, had before been sold to Richard Mead, Esq., of Bearden, by Lord Mounteagle, who demolished a considerable part of the buildings; it afterwards passed through the hands of the Cafons and others to Felix Calvert, Esq., of Brent Pelham, who purchased it in 1677. They also purchased Stocking Pelham.

The manor of White Barnes, in the reign of King Stephen, belonged to Robert de Sigillo, Bishop of London, lord of the manors of Brent and Furneaux Pelham. It was held with the former churches, that he and his successors should provide 300lbs.

weight of wax for six lamps to be continually burnt in this church. It continued successively in the treasurers of St. Paul's church, London, who were originally constituted by the Bishops of London as lords of the manor.

The rectory is appropriated to the perpetual use of the treasurers of St. Paul's cathedral; the vicarage is valued in the king's books at the yearly rate of 9*l.*; and the treasurers of St. Paul's have been patrons. The church stands upon a hill near the town; it consists of two aisles, divided from the body. There is a small chapel or burial-place, erected by Robert Newport, Esq., in Henry VII.'s time; a square tower, with a ring of five bells, adjoins the west end, with a small spire erected on the tower. In the north aisle is a curious piece of Gothic screen-work. Here are some remarkable inscriptions and monuments.



A L B U R Y.

THIS parish signifies an ancient seat, and is two miles distant from Furneaux Pelham to the south. Ralph de Sigillo, Bishop of London, possessed it in the time of King Stephen. It was called Eldeberic in Domesday-book, and in the time of the Confessor was worth 8*l.* a year. In the reign of Henry II. Hugh de Bokeland was lord of the manor; in the next reign it was in the Baard family, and the daughter and heiress of Sir John Baard conveyed it to John de la Lee in marriage; the Barley family had it next; they held it from the Bishop of London. William Barley, who was attainted of high treason in the reign of Henry VII., forfeited it, and the king granted it to the Earls of Suffolk and Essex; but he was afterwards pardoned, and restored to his estates. It remained with that family till Dorothy Barley conveyed it to Thomas Leventhorp and his heirs; at his death it was divided among his four daughters, and descended in moieties through different families till it was purchased by the Calverts. Sir Edward Atkins lived here in the time of Charles II.; he was a learned man, chief baron of the Exchequer in 1686, and purchased a moiety of the manor. It is now the seat of Nicholson Calvert, Esq.

The manor of Albury parsonage was, in the time of King Stephen, in the possession of Robert de Sigillo, Bishop of London, who gave it to Geoffrey, constituted treasurer of St. Paul's cathedral, London; in those treasurers it has always remained.

The manor of Upperwick was part of the possessions of the Bawd family; we find it in them in Henry V.'s reign, in 1420; Sir Thomas Bawd in 1503 granted to the Bishop of Winchester and others his manor of Upperwick. In Queen Mary's reign it was in the possession of Thomas Elliott. About the year 1633 William Stacy purchased it, and left an heir; he died in 1660.

The manor of Palmer was held of the Bishop of London, of his castle of Bishop's Stortford. Sir John Baard held it in Henry III.'s reign; from whom it passed to Geoffrey de la Lee in right of his wife, daughter and heiress of Sir John Baard, and went as the manor of Albury did, till it came to John Harlestone, who married the daughter and heiress of Thomas Barley of Albury-hall, who had issue Anne, married to Thomas Scroggs, in whose family it was in the year 1700.

The rectory is appropriated to the perpetual use of the treasurer of St. Paul's cathedral. The vicarage is rated in the king's books at the yearly value of 12*l.*, and the treasurers are patrons. The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and stands upon a hill in the middle of the parish, with a body and two aisles on each side; at the west end is a square tower, with a short spire, and four bells; in the church is a gallery for the Brograve family. There are some small benefactions in the parish. The inhabitants of this parish, with those of Pelham and Mesdon, are free from the jurisdiction of the bishop of the diocese, and are peculiar to the Archbishop of Canterbury. They derived these liberties from Archbishop Lanfranc, who exempted all parish priests of the towns which belonged to him, or where he was lord, from the jurisdiction or visitation of the bishop.

HADHAM PARVA.

ABOUT a mile south-east of Albury lies the parish of Hadham Parva, and was formerly part of the revenues of the Saxon kings, in whose possession it continued till King Edgar gave part to the monks of Ely. In the time of the Confessor it was worth 12*l.* a year. The abbot of Ely held the manor till King Henry III., on his petition, converted the monastery into a bishopric; the bishops of Ely enjoyed it in the time of Edward I., when they claimed privileges; it continued in those bishops till one of them exchanged it with Queen Elizabeth; from which time it continued in the crown till James I. conveyed it to Robert Lord Cecil, of Essendon, in Rutlandshire;

landshire; and from him it descended into the family of the Marquis of Salisbury, who has jurisdiction of court leet and baron.

The manor of Hadham-hall was another branch of the revenue of the Saxon kings, which was granted from the crown to the bishops of London, who held it at the survey. It was then worth 4*l.* a year. The bishops of London held this manor some time in their possession. In the reign of Henry III. it was in the possession of Sir Henry Bawd, whose grandfather was a commander against the Saracens in the Holy Land. In this family, many of whom were sheriffs of this county and Essex, it remained till the year 1505, when Thomas Bawd, Esq., conveyed it to Sir Thomas D'Arcy, Knight, Lord D'Arcy, and his heirs. Lord D'Arcy again conveyed it to Sir William Capel, in the 20th year of Henry VII.'s reign: the Earl of Essex, his descendant, is the present possessor.

The manor of Wickham, at the time of the Conquest, was divided into two parts, of which Humphrey, a Saxon, held one of the Bishop of London. This hamlet contains a messuage or farm, called Wickham-hall, which Arthur Lord Capel purchased and laid to his park, and converted the house into a lodge for the keeper. Another messuage or farm-house also, called Hammes, with all lands belonging to them, which lie in the parishes of Little Hadham, Farnham, and Stortford, is included in this hamlet; ever since the Conquest both the messuages and lands have been reputed, and remain part of this county, but pay parochial duties to the several parishes in which they lie.

The rectory formerly belonged to Sir Walter Baud, Knight, till the reign of Edward I., when he sold all his right in the advowson of the church to the Bishop of London, and his successors for ever, for the sum of 20*l.*; and from that time it has been united with Great Hadham, though they have distinct officers, and are severed in all parochial duties, and the rector provides a curate. The church is situated upon a hanging hill facing the west: it is rated in the king's books with Great Hadham: it has a body and one aisle. There is a square tower at the west end, with four bells, and a spire erected upon it twelve feet high from the battlements. In the church are some inscriptions and monuments to the Capel family and others.

GREAT HADHAM.

THIS parish is situated in a vale upon the river Ash, about two miles distant from the former towards the south, and was part of the revenue of the bishops of London, which they held in the time of the Conqueror: in the reign of the Confessor it was worth 20*l.* per annum. This was a seat which the bishops of London usually reserved for their place of residence, and was of great consideration with many of our princes; among whom, Catharine, mother of Henry VI., was delivered of a son in this manor-house. But since that time the bishops have demised it for lives. Thomas Park, Esq., had it about a century ago. The bishops have jurisdiction of holding court leet and baron within this lordship, where the fines upon the admission of any copyholder are certain, that is, one year's quit-rent; and there is a custom, that the widow of every copyholder who shall die seised of a copyhold estate in fee, shall have her free bench in all the copyhold lands, of which her husband died seised in this manor.

The manor of the rectory was doubtless derived from the last manor, and contains all the lands which the parish is said to have held in Domesday-book. When the bishop erected and founded this church he appointed a priest to perform the office, and gave him this manor and lands for his support: since that time the bishop and his successors have been patrons. There are some pleasant houses in this parish; Moor-place is the chief; it was so called from some distinguished owner of that name, and was afterwards conveyed to the Dalton family, who held it in their name: it was afterwards sold to Nevil Earl of Abergavenny, who since disposed of it to Sir John Gore, Knight; he held it some time, and then conveyed it to Richard Atkins, Esq., who was created a baronet in 1660. He sold it to James Berners, Esq.

Another seat was erected here by ——— Tompson, Esq., who afterwards sold it to Charles Cæsar, Esq., younger son of Sir Charles Cæsar, Knight, Master of the Rolls, and Chancellor of the Exchequer. He afterwards sold it to William Allen, Esq.

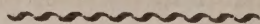
Another seat here of considerable antiquity was in the possession of William Nuce, Esq.

The rectory is estimated in the king's books at the yearly value of 66*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* The church stands in a bottom between the town and river Ash; it has a chancel at the east end, and a tower at the west, containing five bells: it has a spire covered with lead.

CAISHO, OR CASHIO, HUNDRED.

THIS hundred was originally called Albaneston, from the town of St. Alban's; but now Caisho, from its being the ancient seat of Cassibelan, king of the Cassians. It has since become part of the possessions of that ancient monastery. It was made a liberty by a grant of Edward IV.; and upon the dissolution of that church it rested in the crown, and there remained till King James I. by letters patent granted the whole liberty of the late monastery, with all its appurtenances, to William Whitmore, Esq., and John Eldred, and their heirs, who conveyed it in the same year to Robert Earl of Salisbury, from whom it has lineally descended to the present marquis. Within this liberty stood the great city of Verulam, where Cassibelan held his court, and was afterwards made a free city of the Romans, but since destroyed; so that nothing now remains but the foundations of the walls, with the marks of the ditches that enclosed about 450 acres of ground, which prove the extent of that city and the borough of St. Alban's, which was built out of the ruins of it, and is also situated within this liberty.

This hundred is bounded on the north and east by the hundreds of Hitchin and Broadwater, on the south by Middlesex, and on the west by the hundred of Dacorum. The town and borough of St. Alban's is the chief place where the sessions of the liberty are held; it contains the following parishes and hamlets, which are divided between three high constables. In the first division are Abbots Langley, Sarret, Rickmansworth, Watford, Caisho, Aldenham, Idlestree, near Sulloniaca, formerly a Roman city, but now an uninhabited place, Chipping Barnet, East Barnet, Northaw, and Ridge. In the second division are, St. Stephens, Parkward, Sleep and Smallford, Tyttenhanger, St. Michael's, Windridge Ward, Redburne, and Sandridge. The third division contains Paul's Walden, Codicote, Brantfield, Shephall, Hexton, Norton, and Newnham.



VERULAM AND ST. ALBAN'S.

ABOUT twenty-one miles from London, upon the river Ver, is situated this ancient city of Verulam and St. Alban's, which being a borough of itself, and exempt from

from the jurisdiction of the other divisions, will make a separate history. Verulam, or Verulamium, from which St. Alban's derived its origin, was an ancient British city, the seat of the princes of the Cassii, and according to the evidence of the Roman historians of greater antiquity than London itself. When Julius Cæsar invaded the Britons, it was the residence of Cassibelan; and when the Romans had driven that chief from hence, they plundered the town; but the inhabitants living again quietly under their government, they were rewarded with the privileges of citizens of Rome, and their town made a municipium, or city. This was one of the two Roman cities which were taken and sacked by the Britons, under the conduct of Boadicea, queen of the Iceni, in the reign of the Emperor Nero, when a most dreadful slaughter was made of the Romans and their allies. Malden, in Essex, was the other city; but both were rebuilt, and flourished afterwards under the Romans. Several coins have been discovered here: Camden saw some with the inscription Tascia on one side, and Ver on the other; and as Tasc in the British language signifies tribute, and Ver is put for Verulam, he supposes this to have been money paid for a poll or land tax. In a succeeding age the fame of Verulam was additionally increased by the martyrdom of Albanus, or Alban, who fell during the persecution of the Christians, which commenced under the Emperor Dioclesian in the year of our Lord 303. No more is known of him than that he suffered during this period. He was probably a Roman, and put to death by imperial authority; but it may be doubted whether his adherence to the Christian faith was the only crime laid to his charge. A church was, however, founded to his memory. He is supposed to have sheltered a Christian preacher, named Amphibalus, who had fled from Wales to avoid the persecution. Albanus having secured his retreat, was condemned, and beheaded on a neighbouring hill, that hill on which the church of St. Alban's is now built. It would be tedious to enter into an account of his miracles, or the various stories related concerning this saint; it is sufficient to say, that where St. Alban's bones were found, there the monastery was erected, with an inscription upon it to this effect: "Here lieth interred the body of St. Alban, a citizen of old Verulam, from whom this town took its denomination, and from the ruins of this city this town of St. Alban did arise; he was the first martyr of England, and suffered his martyrdom on the 17th day of June, in the year of man's redemption 293." The monastery of St. Alban's was built on the other side of the river on a hill opposite, in a place called Holmehurst, by Offa, king of the Mercians, in the year 793. In order to regain his peace of

mind for the many crimes and enormities he had committed, he resolved to build a magnificent church to expiate his guilt, and to preserve the invaluable reliques of this Christian saint. The first stone of this new building was laid with the greatest solemnity by Offa himself. There are, however, disputes among the learned concerning this fabric, which go so far as to say, that it was not built by Offa, but by the early converts to Christianity. Be that as it may, this king enriched the monastery with immense possessions for the maintenance of an hundred black monks. Of all the monasteries of England, this was the richest. Its revenue was immense, and its privileges still greater. The mitred abbot had precedency of all England, and was subject to no ecclesiastical power but that of the pope. From the first to the last they were forty-one in number, and many of them persons of great accomplishments and high birth; the thirty-ninth of which, though not high born, was Cardinal Wolfey. The last abbot was Richard Boreman, who, at the dissolution, quietly surrendered at the royal command, and accepted a pension for life of 266*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* The church has been rebuilt in many parts at various times. The town purchased it at the dissolution for 400*l.*, which prevented it from being pulled down and demolished. It is now made a parish church for the borough. In the north entrance is Offa on his throne, with an inscription underneath. In the eastern part of the church stood the shrine; six holes remain in the pavement where the supporters were fixed. The west end of the choir has a noble piece of Gothic workmanship for the ornament of the high altar. There are many curious medals and coins to be seen in the church, which have been dug out of the ruins of old Verulam. The general form of the building of the monastery, or church, is that of a long cross, with a large square tower rising from the intersection of the nave and transept, and supported on four large semicircular arches: those parts towards the middle are the most ancient, the east and west ends being of a different species of architecture and more modern. The external appearance of the building, when seen from a distance, is very majestic; but upon a closer inspection, loses part of its effect from the mixture of Roman bricks and tiles. The tower appears to be the most perfect. The battlements and spire are later in date than the lower part of the tower, which is divided into three stages. The chapel of the Virgin, which is now used as a grammar-school, exhibits some beautiful specimens of architecture, in the ornaments and forms of the windows. The prospect from the summit of the tower is very extensive and diversified. The principal entrance is at the west end, beneath a porch which projects: above are the

shields with the arms of Offa and the abbey. The interior of the church is particularly striking from the variations of architecture which it exhibits. Over the west entrance is a large and pointed arched window. The columns and arches of the nave display much majesty and grandeur. St. Cuthbert's screen is of Tottenhoe stone obtained from quarries in the county of Bedford. It is finely sculptured in the pointed order. The baptistery comprehends the space between St. Cuthbert's screen, and the first or westernmost arch of the tower. The choir comprehends all the space between the west arch of the tower and the altar screen. The tower is supported on four noble arches of a semicircular form, arising from immensely massive pillars. The abbots' monuments are very striking. The altar is approached by a flight of steps, and the screen, generally called Wallingford's screen, which separates the choir from the presbytery, is perhaps the most beautiful piece of stone-work in England, and shews the improved taste of architecture in the reign of Edward IV. The presbytery includes the space between the screen and the east end of the church; here is the monument of Duke Humphrey, and near it an ancient watch-tower, where the monks were accustomed to guard St. Alban's shrine. The aisles are of the same length as the church at present; the ceilings of the nave, transept, and choir, are of wood, formed into square compartments and painted. The chapel of the Virgin is completely separated from the church, as the arches have been walled up. It was formerly very beautiful, but is now much dilapidated. The entire length of the abbey church is 539 feet, including the west porch and chapel of the Virgin. The length of the transept is 174 feet, the breadth almost 32; the breadth of the body of the church is $74\frac{1}{2}$ feet; the height of the tower is 144 feet. The monuments and sepulchral inscriptions in the church are very numerous: that of the Duke of Gloucester, guardian of Henry VI., is the most conspicuous. The body of the duke was discovered by accident in a vault in the year 1703, and was found to be in pickle, in a leaden coffin, inclosed in one of wood. In niches are statues of seventeen sovereigns, supposed to be the duke's ancestors. The chapel of the Abbot Ramryge is very beautiful, and excels in sculpture; that of the Abbot Whethamsted is also very simple and elegant. On the pavements in the choir are many inscriptions to different abbots, and other persons of distinction, who were buried here. Here was formerly a library and writing-room; the books were dispersed at the dissolution. The chief part of the monastic buildings appear to have been situated towards the south and south-west of the church; very few are now remaining; the gate-house among

them, and a few cottages, which are supposed to have been the royal stables. The situation of the cloisters can be easily ascertained. The gate-house was built during the reign of Richard II., and is a heavy building, which forms the entrance into the precincts of the abbey; the upper part of it is now used for the prison of the borough, as it was formerly that of the monastery. In the fields, at different distances, are arched passages, called the Monks Holes; they were probably intended for drains. For a particular account of this venerable edifice, we must refer the reader to Newcome's account of the abbey, where he will meet with every information he can possibly desire.

Upon the dissolution of this monastery all the grants and concessions remained in the crown; but for the preservation of the town, King Edward VI. in 1554 granted that the town should be incorporated by the name of mayor and burgeses of the borough of St. Alban's, and should have perpetual succession. It is now governed by a mayor, high steward, recorder, twelve aldermen, a town-clerk, and twenty-four assistants. In this borough is a particular liberty, which has a jurisdiction both in ecclesiastical and civil matters peculiar to itself. This district includes the parishes of Watford, Rickmansworth, Nortonridge, Haxton, Walden Abbots, Sarret, Langley Abbots, Elstree, Busby, Cudicot, Shephell, Sandridge, Redburne, and Barnet. The liberty has a gaol and gaol delivery at St. Alban's four times a year, on the Thursday after the quarter sessions at Hertford. There are four wards in this town, in each of which are two churchwardens and a constable. It is large and populous, though not a very beautiful town. The country round it is pleasant, and abounds with fine seats. Here are two charity schools, one for twenty-eight boys, and the other for twenty-one. St. Alban's sends two members to parliament, and has a large market for wheat, particularly on Saturdays. It has also three annual fairs, the 25th of March, 17th of June, and 29th of September, for the sale of horses and cattle.

The hospital of St. Julian was founded and erected by Geoffrey, sixteenth abbot of the monastery of St. Alban's, near the road leading to London. Upon the dissolution this hospital came to the crown; from whence it was conveyed to Thomas Lee; and from that family to Everard Digby; from them it was sold to John Ellis, a draper of London; his son sold it to Henry Killigrew in 1693.

The hospital of St. Mary de Pre, or in the Meadow, was founded in Richard I.'s reign by Garine, twentieth abbot, and given to sick women, or lepers. At the dissolution

dissolution King Henry VIII. gave the site of this hospital to Ralph Rowlet, Esq., of St. Alban's, sheriff of the county.

The chapel of St. Germain's was built by Germain Bishop of Auxerre, and Lupus Bishop of Troyes, about the year 429. Sir Thomas Cotton bought it in 1687, and sold it to Henry Killigrew, Esq.; it has been since demolished.

The manor of Newland Squillers was part of the revenue of the church of St. Alban's. Upon the dissolution it came to the king, who granted it to Sir Richard Lee; it was afterwards conveyed to ——— Grace, citizen and goldsmith, of London, who brought it in marriage to the Robotham family.

The manor of Butterwick, in St. Peter's parish, was part of the possessions of St. Alban's monastery. Upon the dissolution it came to the crown; from thence it was conveyed to Anthony Denny, Esq., who sold it to Sir Richard Cox, master of the household to Queen Elizabeth, King James, and Charles I.

The manor of Beech was so called from Godfrey de Beche, who obtained it by gift of the Conqueror; it was afterwards given to the church of St. Alban, and came to the crown upon the dissolution; from whence it was conveyed to Anthony Denny, Esq., in whose family it remained till it was sold to John Dell.

The monastery of Sopwell was founded by Geoffrey, abbot of St. Alban's, in the year 1140, for the reception of poor women; it was so called from a well near the place. Its origin arose from two poor women who formed a kind of cell here by twisting boughs, and living in a most rigid and abstemious manner; their conduct was so much approved by the abbot, that he built this nunnery. It occupies a considerable space of ground, about half a mile south-east of St. Alban's; but the dilapidations have been so great that nothing can be traced. The nuns consisted of only sixteen in number; their possessions were afterwards considerably increased; and at the dissolution, according to Speed, were estimated at 68*l.* 8*s.* per annum. In 1541 Henry VIII. granted the site and buildings to Sir Richard Lee; by him the buildings were enlarged for his own residence, and the grounds converted into a park; and from him they passed into Sir Ralph Sadleir's family. About the time of the restoration it fell to an heiress, married to Thomas Saunders, Esq., of Beechwood; and was afterwards sold to Sir Harbottle Grimston, ancestor of the present Lord Grimston, of Gorhambury, who is the possessor of chief part of Sopwell nunnery manor.

The manors of Weld, Randolfes, and Newberries, have a mansion-house well situated,

situated, encompassed with a moat, and a park adjoining, at the centre of four parishes, St. Peter's in St. Alban's, St. Stephen's, Aldenham, and Ridge; and some of the demesne lands lie in Shenley. John Somersham, of Asham, lord of the manor of Cornerd, in Suffolk, possessed them in the reign of Edward III.; his daughter, Margaret, marrying William Ash, they came into his possession. He left one daughter, married to Thomas Frowick, who had them in the reign of Henry V. From this family they came to John Coningsby, Esq., in Henry VIII.'s reign. They possessed the manors for a considerable length of time.

The manor of Kingsbury was so called from the ancient Saxon kings who possessed it, and often resided and kept their court here; among whom, Bertulph, king of the Mercians, celebrated a parliamentary council in 851. There was formerly a stately palace belonging to the castle of Kingsbury, situated at the west end of the town of St. Alban's. From the great expense which the royal entertainments caused to the abbots and monks of St. Alban's, they were induced to purchase this estate; King Ethelred sold it to them, and it continued in their possession till the dissolution, when it returned to the crown: from thence it was conveyed to John Cox; his son sold it to Sir Francis Bacon, Lord Verulam, keeper of the great seal of England; he disposed of it to Sir Thomas Meautys; from whom it passed as the manor of Gorham did to the Grimston family.

The manor of Gorhambury was part of the ancient revenue of St. Alban's church, and was in all probability so denominated from Robert de Gorham, who was elected abbot in 1151. The abbots held it till the dissolution, when it came to the crown. In 1541 Henry VIII. granted it, with other estates, to Ralph Rowlet, Esq., afterwards knighted, and sheriff of the county. Mary, his eldest daughter, marrying John Maynard, Esq., Gorhambury became his property. He in 1550 sold it to Nicholas Bacon, Esq., who was afterwards knighted, and made lord-keeper of the great seal to Queen Elizabeth. Sir Nicholas erected a mansion not far from that which is now the seat of Lord Grimston, where he was frequently visited by that queen. The house was in the form of a quadrangle, though now only the ruins of the hall and a tower are to be seen. The walls are thick, composed of flint. This mansion was reduced to ruins, when the present house of Lord Grimston was built between the years 1778 and 1785. Sir Nicholas gave this mansion and manor to his son Anthony, who was an elegant scholar; and it continued in his possession till his death, when it came to his brother Francis, afterwards Lord Verulam. In the year

1621 the chancellor was accused of corruption, and sentenced to retire, and to pay 40,000*l*. On his decease in 1626 Gorhambury became the property of Sir Thomas Meautys, Knight, his relation and private secretary. After his death his widow married Sir Harbottle Grimston, who purchased the reversion of the manors of Gorhambury and Kingsbury of Hercules Meautys, nephew and heir of Sir Thomas Meautys. The Grimston family are descended from Sylvester, afterwards surnamed De Grimston, a Norman, who came over with the Conqueror, and was his standard-bearer at the battle of Hastings. James Bucknall Grimston is the present possessor, and was created a British peer in 1790. The mansion-house of Gorhambury is a spacious stone building of the Corinthian order, connected by two wings. Sir Robert Taylor was the designer of the plan. The grand entrance is by a flight of steps. The hall, library, and other apartments, are large, and decorated with many fine portraits. The park and grounds contain about 600 acres, well stocked with fine timber.

The manor of Childwick was granted by Ailwin the Black and Ailfred his wife to St. Alban's church, and upon the dissolution it went to the crown; from whence it came to the Preston family, in whose name it remained till it was sold to Joshua Lomax, Esq.

The manor of Winderidge was in the possession of Godfred de Bech in the Conqueror's time, part of which he held of the abbot of St. Alban's, and part in his own right. This hamlet was denominated from the ridge of a hill, on which it is situated. In Edward III.'s reign it belonged to Joan Pyrrat; and at her death it came to John Peacock. In the time of Henry VI. it was in the possession of John Fortescue, Esq.; his son sold it to Henry Cock, Esq. In the reign of Henry VIII. Philippa, his daughter, married Sir Francis Bryan, who held it in her right; and at her death it went to Thomas Law; from whose family it came to the crown, where it remained till James I. conveyed it to John Crosby, Esq.; from this family it passed to the Grimstons.

At the bottom of Holywell-hill, in St. Alban's, on the north-east side of the river Meuse, is Holywell-house, the residence of the Dowager Countess Spencer, who retired here at the death of the late Earl in 1783, and has since resided here continually. The mansion was built by Sarah Duchess of Marlborough, into whose family the estate came by the marriage of a daughter and heiress of Ralph Rowlet, Esq., sheriff in the reign of Henry VIII. There is a kind of cloister which forms part

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of the old building fronting the garden. The grounds here are very beautiful, and the trees are of various descriptions, the countess being particularly partial to the study of botany. The well is at the bottom of the garden, whence this place derives its name.

In the borough of St. Alban's are three parish churches, besides the abbey church; one dedicated to St. Stephen, another to St. Peter the Apostle, and the third to St. Michael the Archangel.

St. Stephen's church is nearly one mile south-west of St. Alban's, and was founded in the tenth century by the abbot Ulfinus. In the chancel stands a curious ancient eagle of brass, which was found buried in the earth on opening the vault of the Montgomery family in 1750. There are many sepulchral monuments in this church worthy the attention of the curious. Part of this parish of St. Stephen belongs to the Earl of Essex, and is included in Park manor.

St. Peter's church is situated on the north part of the borough, and was valued in the king's books at 9*l.* 8*s.* It has a chancel at the east end, and at the west a square tower covered with lead, containing six bells, with a short spire upon it. The church and churchyard were filled with the bodies of those slain at the two bloody battles fought near this town between the houses of York and Lancaster: the first upon the 23d of May 1455, in which the Yorkists gained the victory; the second on Shrove-Tuesday, in the 39th of Henry VI., when the martial Queen Margaret overcame the Yorkists, who had then the king in their power, and fought under the sanction of his name. This church was rebuilt in the time of Henry III., and has since undergone many very expensive alterations.

St. Michael's church is situated in the north-west part of this town; at the west end is a square tower, with four bells; it was valued in the king's books at 10*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.* per annum. It contains a remarkably fine statue of Sir Francis Bacon, Lord-Verulam, erected by Sir Thomas Meautys.

Many improvements have of late years been made in the town of St. Alban's. In 1794 a new road was formed through the south-east part of the town. In 1804 an act of parliament passed for the better paving and lighting the streets. Some of the houses in the highest part of the town are very respectable buildings. The return made in 1800 of the number of inhabitants was 3038. A silk-mill occupies the situation of the old abbey-mill, and finds employment for 50 girls. The town-hall is an old building in St. Peter's-street. It had previously been part of the abbey's possessions,

possessions, and was called the charnel-house. The market-house is plain. The cross is of wood, of an octagonal form, and is supposed to stand on the same spot where Edward I. built one of those beautiful crosses to the memory of his beloved Eleanora.

The grammar-school and other houses of alms are also among the buildings of this town.

ABBOTS LANGLEY.

THIS town lies about three miles distance from St. Alban's, upon a hill among the woods to the south. Egelwyn the Black and Winflod his wife gave it to the abbots of St. Alban's; from whence it was called Abbots, to distinguish it from a neighbouring town, and was called Langley from the length of the parish, the name signifying a long land. In the Confessor's reign it was worth 15*l.* per annum. The abbots of this church held the manor till the dissolution, when it came to the crown, where it remained till Prince Charles held a court here in the reign of James I.; and shortly after it was conveyed to Thomas Combe, Esq., of Hemel Hemstead; but dying without issue in 1641, he bequeathed this manor, with other lands, to Sidney College, Cambridge, and Trinity, Oxford, for the purpose of educating his own relations and those of his wife. Nicholas de Brakespear, who was the only Englishman that ever filled the pontifical chair, was born here. His early years were so ill employed, that he was refused the habit of a monk of St. Alban's abbey. He went over to Paris, and cultivating his talents there, he was at length made bishop of Alba, then cardinal, and at length pope, in 1154, under the name of Adrian IV. He died in 1159, not without suspicion of poison, and was buried in St. Peter's church.

The manor of Hide was derived from the last manor, and so denominated from an ancient possessor. It was sold to Henry Greenhill of Harrow, in the county of Middlesex, who died in possession of it in 1655.

The church is situated in the middle of the town, in the deanery of St. Alban's, and diocese of London. The vicarage was rated in the king's books at 10*l.* per annum. The church is covered with lead, and has a square tower, with a spire upon it, containing five bells. It is spacious and handsome, and dedicated to St. Laurence. It contains several good monuments.

SARRATT.

THIS parish lies about four miles distant from Abbots Langley towards the south-west, which Offa, king of the Mercians, granted to the monastery of St. Alban's in 796. It came from Syret, a Saxon, who was an ancient possessor of it. The abbots and monks held possession of it till the dissolution, when it came to the crown; from whence it was granted to William Ibgrave, who held it of the king in the reign of Edward VI. A fine was levied of this manor by the name of Rose-hall between William Luddington and Thomas Wanford; since which time it was in the possession of a person of the name of Coishut, who lived here; after him the manor came to Francis Kingsley; it continued in this family till William Kingsley sold it to Thomas Child, whose family had it in 1655; from them it came to John Duncomb, Esq.

The rectory is valued in the king's books at 9*l.* per annum; and the lords of the manor are patrons. The church stands in the middle of the town, in the deanery of St. Alban's, in the diocese of London, in the form of a cross.

 RICKMANSWORTH.

IN ancient records this town was called Rickmerefworth from its situation in a nook of land, where the river coming from Chessham, in the county of Buckingham, falls into the Coln, and forms here a large pool of water. Ric, in the Saxon language, signifies rich; mear, a pool; an weath, a place situated between two rivers. It is about three miles distant from Sarratt, and twenty-two from London. Offa, king of the Mercians, gave this manor to the abbey of St. Alban's; it was worth 20*l.* per annum in the time of the Confessor. Henry III. granted a market here on every Wednesday. It continued in this monastery till the dissolution, when it came to the crown. King Edward VI. granted it to Nicholas Ridley, Bishop of London, with the rectory and church and appurtenances; but when Queen Mary came to the throne, she deprived him of it and the bishopric, and granted it to Bonner and his successors. The manor afterwards returned to the crown, when Charles I. sold it to Sir Thomas Fotherley, Knight, whose son John was sheriff for the county in the

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reign of Charles II. This family became extinct by the death of its possessor, son of the last-mentioned person, who was swallowed up in an earthquake in Jamaica in 1694. He left the reversion of the manor to his nephew, Temple Whitfield, Esq., whose descendant, Henry Fotherley Whitfield, Esq., is the present possessor. The mansion, which belongs to him, is an irregular building, adjoining the west side of the churchyard.

The manor of Croxley was part of the revenues of the abbey of St. Alban's, and upon the dissolution came to the crown. Queen Elizabeth granted it to Dr. Caius, her physician, who added this manor to Gonville and Caius College, in Cambridge; the master and fellows of which are the present lords.

The manor of the Moor was part of the possession of George Nevill, youngest son of Richard Earl of Warwick and Salisbury, Bishop of Exeter in 1455; Chancellor of England in 1460, and Archbishop of York in 1466; but afterwards the manor came to the crown, when Henry VII. granted it to John Vere, Earl of Oxford, in reward for his valour at the battle of Bosworth field. It afterwards returned to the crown, and appears to have belonged to Wolsey; after which James I. granted it to — Woodward and Lucy, Esqrs., and the heirs of Lucy, in trust for the Earl of Bedford, who in Charles I.'s reign sold it to William Earl of Pembroke, who conveyed it to Sir Charles Harbord in trust, but disposed of the Moor-park estate, which had before formed part of the manor, to Robert Cary, Earl of Monmouth, third son of Lord Hunston. Soon after his death Moor-park was sold to Sir Richard Franklyn, to whom the manor also had been before conveyed. He sold it to the Earl of Offory. The manor of the Moor was afterwards sold to Sir William Bucknall, of Oxhey. The Moor-house estate, which belonged to a family named Earl, was purchased by Robert Williams, Esq. Thomas Earl of Offory's eldest son, James, sold Moor-park to James Duke of Monmouth, son of Charles II.; his wife disposed of it to Benjamin Hoskins Styles, Esq., in 1720; after his death it was purchased by Admiral, afterwards Lord Anson; his heir sold it to Sir Laurence Dundas, Bart., in 1765; his son in 1787 disposed of it to Thomas Bates Rous, Esq., who died in 1799. Robert Williams, Esq., the present owner, purchased it in the same year of his executors. Moor-park-house, his splendid seat, is a magnificent building of the Corinthian order: it fronts north and south, and stands in a large woody park, about five miles in circumference. The ground was lowered in front of the house, as it intercepted the view, at the expense of 5000*l.*, in the year 1725. This

was done by H. B. Styles, who had amassed an immense fortune by the South Sea scheme. The mansion was originally built of brick by the Duke of Monmouth; but Mr. Styles new fronted and cased it with Portland stone, and erected two wings, besides the portico. The expense of his improvements amounted to more than 150,000/. It was further improved by Lord Anson and Sir Laurence Dundas. Mr. Rous pulled down the wings for the purpose of disposing of the materials. The house, however, remains entire. The park was much improved by Lord Anson, who laid out 80,000/. upon it. A pleasure-garden of the old formal style, laid out by Lucy Duchefs of Bedford, he totally altered. Brown, the celebrated landscape-gardener, was the person employed.

The manor of Michelfield was part of the revenue of the Saxon kings, and Offa gave it, with others, to St. Alban's church. The abbots held it till the dissolution, when it came to the crown, and since to the family of Robinsons, in Suffolk.

The manor of Wood Oaks was the ancient seat of the Colts; from that family, by marriage, it came to Sir Benjamin Titchburne, Knight. Here is a very powerful echo above the manor-house.

The vicarage was rated in the king's books at 16/. per annum. The church is in the deanery of St. Alban's, and diocese of London. It has a square tower at the west end, with a spire erected upon it. It is spacious, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary. The edifice has been considerably repaired. Rickmansworth being situated near several streams, renders it very convenient for trade. Here are several mills of different descriptions. The population amounted to 2975 in the year 1800. It is governed by two constables and two headboroughs, and has a charity-school and several alms-houses. About three miles north-east of Rickmansworth were discovered, not many years ago, several veins of sea-sand, mixed with mussels and other shells, in cutting through a hill.

W A T F O R D.

WATFORD is situated upon the river Colne, about three miles distant from Rickmansworth towards the north-east, and was so called from Wet and Ford at the south end of the town, where was a ford over the Colne. It was part of the endowment of Offa to the monastery of St. Alban, and was by some supposed to have been

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Wallingford.

Wallingford. Before the Conquest it was part of Cashio, and belonged to the abbey till the dissolution, when the stewardship of it was given to John Lord Ruffel, of Chenies, in Buckinghamshire. James I. granted it to the Lord Chancellor Egerton, Baron of Ellesmere, in whose descendants, the Dukes of Bridgewater, it remained till the year 1760, when the Earl of Essex purchased it, and it is now in his descendant, the present earl.

The prætorian or consular way made by the Romans in this county, called Watling-street, crosses the Colne near it, and passes on to Verulam, near St. Alban's. It consists of one very long street, which is extremely dirty during the winter, and the waters of the river at the entrance of the town are often so much swelled by the floods as to be impassable. Here are several alms-houses and other funds for the poor; a charity-school for forty boys, and a free-school built in 1704 by Mrs. Elizabeth Fuller. The charter of the market was granted by Henry I., and Edward IV. gave them the liberty of two fairs annually. The market-house is a long building, supported on wooden pillars. The quantity of corn sold here is very great; the police of the town is under the neighbouring magistrates. Three silk-mills have lately been erected here. The population of Watford is estimated at 3530 inhabitants.

The manor of Cashiobury, according to tradition, was the ancient seat of King Cassibelan, as the name imports, the Cassii being the ancient inhabitants, and this spot was very conveniently situated. When the Saxons subdued the realm, and divided the government into an heptarchy, this manor was made a seat of the ancient kings, and continued in their possession till Offa gave it to enrich the abbey of St. Alban's. By the great quantity of land here in their possession, it seems that all the parish of Watford is comprehended within it; since which time many princes have confirmed the grants made to the abbey. The abbey enjoyed possession of it till the dissolution, when Henry VIII. conveyed it to Richard Morison, Esq., who was employed in many state affairs by that sovereign, and died in 1556 at Strasburgh. His grandson was created knight of the bath at the coronation of Charles I.; his only daughter and heiress conveyed the estate in marriage to Arthur Capel, Lord Capel of Hadham, in this county, from whom the present Earl of Essex is descended. The family of Capel had long been established at Stoke Newland, in Suffolk. Sir William Capel was lord mayor of London in 1503. He became the object of plunder to Empson and Dudley, the venal ministers of Henry VII., and

was obliged to pay 2000*l.* as a fine; and being again called upon to pay a similar sum, was imprisoned till the king's death. He died in 1509. His son was a valiant champion. The late earl died in 1799. George, his eldest son, the present earl, assumed the name of Coningsby on succeeding to the estates of his grandmother Frances, daughter of Thomas Earl of Coningsby.

The mansion-house at Cassiobury is a very spacious building, in an extensive park, well wooded with timber, through which the river Gade flows; and across which, by the consent of the earl, the Grand Junction canal has been carried. Richard Morrison, Esq., in the reign of Henry VIII., began to erect the house, which his son completed. It has been much altered and improved of late by the present possessor. The whole mansion and offices have the appearance of a castellated dwelling. There are a kind of cloisters, the windows of which have been ornamented with stained glass. The house contains some very valuable paintings. The park is between three and four miles in circumference. About two miles north of Watford is Russel-farm, the late residence of Lady Ann Capel, now the property of the Earl of Essex; it has been let to General Ross.

The manor of the Grove was the ancient seat of the Haydons. John Haydon died possessed of it in 1408. From this family it came, after a considerable length of time, to the family of Hamptons of Buckinghamshire, who disposed of it to Robert Ashton, Esq., and through various hands it passed to the Hydes Earls of Clarendon, the descendants of the great Lord Chancellor Hyde, the historian of the civil wars. It is now the property of Thomas Villers, Earl of Clarendon. The mansion is an irregular building on the west side of the Gade, in a park about three miles in circumference, through which a divided stream flows. The house contains some valuable paintings. The Earl of Clarendon is particularly attached to agriculture, and cultivates about 600 acres; the soil is a sharp gravel.

The manor of Garston was purchased about the latter end of Edward IV.'s reign by the abbot Whethamstead for the monastery of St. Alban's; it continued there till the dissolution, when it came to the crown; from whence it was granted to Richard and John Randoll, who held it in the reign of Edward VI. by the yearly rent of 1*l.* 8*s.*; from whom it came to Robert Carle; this family sold it to John Marsh, Esq.

The manor of Meriden was another parcel of the revenue of the church of St. Alban's, which the abbots enjoyed till the dissolution, when, upon its coming to the crown,

crown, it was granted to Anthony Denny, Esq. Lord Denny, in the reign of James I., a descendant of the former, sold it to Robert Briscoe, Esq., of Aldenham, in this county. He alienated it to Thomas Ewre of the Lea, descended from a family of that name, of Huntingbridge, in Abbots Langley.

The manor of Caroland was a small manor, another part of the possessions of the abbey of St. Alban's; and coming to the crown upon the dissolution, it was afterwards conveyed to the warden and fellows of Merton College, in Oxford, who are the present possessors.

The manor of Brylston was part of the revenue of Offa, which he gave to the monastery of St. Alban's, which held it till the dissolution, when it came to the crown; and Henry VIII. conveyed it to Anthony Denny, Esq.; from whom it passed as the manor of Meriden did, until it came to the family of Kentish; from that family by marriage it passed to Godman Jenkins, Esq., of Harpenden, and Thomas Nicholl, Gent., of Busby.

The manor of Oxey was so called from Sir Richard de Oxey, Knight, who granted to St. Alban's all his lands here, which that abbey held till the dissolution, when it came to the crown; from whence it probably was conveyed to — Haydon, Esq. One of that family sold it to Sir James Altham, Knight, lord chief baron of the Exchequer. He left a daughter, married to John Lord Vaughan, Earl of Carberry, who possessed it in her right, and sold it to John Haydon, Esq., afterwards knighted; he sold it to Sir William Bucknal, who built a good house here.

The rectory was granted to John Lord Russell in the time of Henry VI.; from whom it passed to the Morrisons, and from them to Lord Capel; from him it descended to the Earl of Essex. The vicarage was valued in the king's books at 21*l.* 11*s.* per annum, of which the abbots of St. Alban's were patrons; but since the advowson has passed with the manor, the Earls of Essex have been patrons. The church is situated in the middle of the town, and is a spacious building, dedicated to the Virgin Mary; it consists of a nave, aisles, and chancel, with a large embattled tower at the west end, about eighty feet high, terminating in a small spire, which rises about twenty more. On the north side of the chancel is the chapel or cemetery of the Morrisons, and now of the Essex family. The monument of Sir Charles Morrison is particularly good, as is that of his son. The church contains an organ, the gallery of which is very large, supported on four Corinthian pillars. There are many benefactions to the parish. Thomas Baldwin gave one third of the profits arising

arising from the springs of Hyde-park, which was his share of those springs, to the poor of Watford; the profits then arose to 40*l.* per annum. Mrs. Mary Cowper granted a rent-charge of 50*l.* per annum issuing out of lands to the vicar of Watford. Mrs. Dorothy Morrison gave 52*l.* per annum issuing out of a farm for the purpose of putting out poor children to be apprentices. Francis Combes gave 10*l.* per annum. Mrs. Mary Cowper also gave 10*l.* to the poor. Lady Morrison gave 30*l.* for a preacher to read a sermon every Tuesday afternoon at the church. The Morrison family also erected several alms-houses which they endowed.

A L D E N H A M.

OFFA gave this parish to his monastery of St. Alban's, by the name of Eldenham, which signifies an ancient seat; it was only worth 15*s.* a year in the time of Edward the Confessor. At the time of the Conquest the abbot of Westminster usurped it for several years, under pretence of clearing a wood, which was near the town, as a remuneration for his undertaking; nor did he yield it up till his death. The manor came to the crown at the dissolution, when Henry VIII. granted it with the advowson to Henry Stepney; his son conveyed them to Sir Edward Cary, Knight; his son was created Viscount Falkland, and was Viceroy of Ireland. Lucius, his son and heir, sold this manor to Sir Job Harbey, Knight, in 1641; created a baronet afterwards. Sir Erasmus, his son, was obliged to sell it to pay his debts, contracted during the troubles of Charles I., to Denzil Lord Hollis, ambassador to France, in 1663; his son succeeded him, then Denzil: and from him it came to John Hollis, who in James I.'s reign was created Marquis of Clare and Duke of Newcastle.

Pens-place is a small manor, situated upon the common, where Henry Coghill, Esq., built a good brick house. He was sheriff for the county in 1673.

Pickets or Newbury is another small manor, which William Briscoe, one of the yeomen of the guard, held here; upon his death it came to his son.

The church is valued in the king's books at 24*l.* per annum. It is situated about the middle of the town, upon a hill, in the diocese of London, near Berry Grove, which was probably the wood which the abbots of Westminster and St. Alban's contended for. The church contains three aisles, with two chancels leaded, and a square tower at the west end, with a spire, containing six bells.

ELSTRE.

E L S T R E.

AMONG other estates this was one which Offa granted to the monastery of St. Alban's, by the name of Eaglestree, from a grove where it was supposed that eagles usually bred; for although the place is now heathy, yet formerly it was very woody, so much that it is not mentioned in Domesday-book. Upon the dissolution it came to the crown, when Henry VIII. granted it to Anthony Denny, Esq. It continued in this family till the reign of James I., when this manor, called Parkbury, was sold to Robert Briscoe of Aldenham, who granted it, with the view of frank-pledge and court-baron, to Sir Baptift Hicks, reserving to himself and heirs that part of the court-baron which lies within this parish. It passed through various hands afterwards, and is now the property of George Byng, Esq., M. P.

The rectory was valued in the king's books at 8*l.* per annum, of which the crown has been patron since the dissolution of monasteries. The church is situated near the street upon a great hill, in the deanery of St. Alban's, and diocese of London, and consists of a body and one aisle. It is dedicated to St. Nicholas. The Rev. James Hackman, who shot Miss Ray at Covent-garden theatre while getting into her carriage, for which he was hanged at Tyburn, was buried in this church.

Sulloniacæ was a large Roman station here, situated in the Watling street or road, which is mentioned in the Itinerary of Antoninus; and here was a famous city at that time. Many coins, urns, and Roman bricks, have been dug up here. At a place called Penney-well, near Brockley-hill, there are still visible the foundations of several walls.



C H I P P I N G B A R N E T.

IN the Saxons' time this place was a large wood, granted to the church of St. Alban's, by the names of the woods of Suthaw, Borham, and Huzehge; the name of Barnet was given to it from its situation on a hill, the word in the Saxon language signifying a hill; it had afterwards the name of Chipping added to it from the market where goods are cheapened, which Henry II. granted to the abbot of St. Alban's to be held here, and was famous for cattle. The market is held here on Wednesday; and there are six annual fairs, the 8th, 9th, and 10th of April, for toys; and 4th, 5th, and 6th of September, for English, Welsh, and Scotch cattle. It is ten

miles from London, on the great north road, and is well supplied with inns. The place is remarkable for a bloody battle fought here on Easter-day in 1468 between the houses of York and Lancaster, in which the great Earl of Warwick was killed, together with many of the principal nobility, and 10,000 men. The place supposed to have been the field of battle is a green spot, called Gladsmore-heath, near Kicks-end, between the St. Alban's and Hatfield roads, a short distance before they meet; and here in 1740 a stone column was erected, on which is a long inscription, giving an account of the battle; it was erected by Sir Jeremy Sambrook. Near the race-ground on Barnet-common is a mineral spring, discovered about the middle of the seventeenth century; it is now not much used.

The manor of Barnet, which includes the whole parish, together with that of East Barnet, anciently belonged to St. Alban's abbey. Upon the dissolution it came to the crown, where it remained till Queen Mary gave it to Anthony Butler, Esq., whose descendants granted it to Sir John Weld in 1619, who demised it to Sir James Stonhouse and others. It soon after went through the hands of Small and Urmston, Gents., who alienated it to Thomas Munday, Esq.; in Charles II.'s reign, he granted it to John Elsome, and he to John Latten, Esq., who sold it to John Nicolls, of Hendon-place, Middlesex. In 1695 John Nicolls, Esq., sold it to Sir Thomas Cooke, Knight. It is now the property of Edward Beeston Long, Esq., in right of his wife, grand-daughter and sole heiress of John Thomlinson, Esq., who died in 1767.

The church is situated in the middle of the town, and contains three aisles divided, with four arches on each side of the middle aisle; there is a chancel at the east end, and a small chapel or vestry-house, built by Thomas Ravenscroft, Esq.; at the south end is a square tower, containing five bells, and a short spire. It is no more than a chapel of ease to East Barnet, and has the same minister, who finds a curate to do the duty. The church was built about the year 1400 by John Moot, abbot of St. Alban's. In the chancel is a monument to Thomas Ravenscroft, Esq.; his family have erected alms-houses here, and an hospital for six poor women. The annual endowment of it is about 75*l.* per annum. Another was also erected for six poor women by John Garrett, Gent., in 1723, who left 800*l.* for that purpose. The number of inhabitants under the population act of Barnet is 1258. Queen Elizabeth erected a free-school here, and endowed it; the endowment has been since increased by other benefactors.

EAST

EAST BARNET.

IN the time of the Conqueror this parish was part of Chipping Barnet, and no mention of it is made in Domesday-book. It has been since distinguished from the other by the name of East, from its situation about a mile eastward among the hills, and is now part of the former manor, with which it has always passed. George Hadley, Esq., erected a neat seat in this parish: he was sheriff of the county in William and Mary's reign. Another seat belonged to Sir John Wolf, sheriff of London and Middlesex in 1696; it is called Pricklers.

The church is situated in the middle of the parish, in the deanery of St. Alban's, and diocese of London; and is rated at the value of 22*l.* 2*s.* 7*d.* per annum. It is a rectory. The chancel was rebuilt in 1663.

 NORTHAW.

THIS parish was waste ground at the time of the Conquest, and was a wood belonging to St. Alban's monastery. Peter de Valoines had a grant of it from the abbot of that monastery, and kept it contrary to agreement; by which means the abbey lost the right of it for some time. It was at length determined that the abbot had the property, and by a decision of the court, Robert de Valoines, Peter's successor, was obliged to make restitution and compensation for the injury. The abbot and monks after this quietly enjoyed possession of it till the dissolution; when Henry VIII. granted it, with others, to William Cavendish, who, in Edward VI.'s reign, conveyed it to Sir Ambrose Dudley. He was attainted of high treason in Elizabeth's reign, but restored in Queen Mary's. He erected here a stately mansion, and ornamented it with gardens, grounds, and plantations. Shortly after the manor came to Lord Ruffel of Thornhaugh, and after him to Richard Sidley, Esq., who in 1624 was sheriff of the county. William, his son and heir, sold it to William Leman, Esq., sheriff of the county in 1645, and member of parliament for Hertford. The present possessor of the manor is — Strode, Esq.

The church is a donative, and the lord of the manor is the patron. It is erected in the deanery of St. Alban's, in the diocese of London. Sir William Leman

added a tower to it at the west end. The body of the church has been taken down, and is now rebuilding; the old tower is to remain. Here are some charitable donations; Richard Cotter gave 50*l.* to the poor; Babbington Stanley also gave 50*l.*; and others have given small benefactions.

R I D G E.

THIS was probably waste ground at the time of the Conquest belonging to some of the adjacent parishes: it took the name from the place where the church has been erected on the side of a hill: it belonged to the monastery of St. Alban. John de Moot founded a new and stately mansion about the end of the fourteenth century in Tittenhanger in this parish: it was afterwards adorned and enlarged by the abbot Whethamsted, in Henry VI.'s reign, and it remained in that monastery till the dissolution, when, coming to the crown, Henry VIII. granted it to Sir Hugh Paulett, whose daughter and heiress married Sir Thomas Pope, founder of Trinity College, Oxford, who had been enriched by many grants of lands from the dissolved monasteries. He made Tittenhanger his chief residence, and, dying without issue in 1559, left it to his widow, daughter of William Blount, Esq., of Blount-hall, Staffordshire. Her nephew, Thomas Pope Blount, succeeded; and from him the estate has descended to the present Earl of Hardwicke in right of his mother, she being the sole heiress of the Pope, Blount, and Freeman families of Hertfordshire. The Blounts became extinct by the death of Sir Henry Pope Blount about the middle of the last century. The present mansion was built by the first Sir Henry Pope Blount in 1654, and is now the seat of the Right Honourable Charles Yorke, next brother to the Earl of Hardwicke. The park is made into a farm; the house is large.

The church is valued in the king's books at 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

ST. STEPHEN'S PARISH.

THIS parish took its name from the saint to whom the church is dedicated. The abbey of St. Alban's held it till the dissolution, when, upon its coming to the crown, Henry VIII. granted it to Sir Anthony Denny. It continued with them till Edward Lord Denny conveyed it to Robert Briscoe, Esq., who in 1607 sold it to Sir Baptist

Hicks and William Topperly, and the heirs of Sir Baptift, who, being a rich merchant of London, built a good house in the street called St. John's-street, which was called Hicks's-hall. His daughter marrying Sir Charles Morrifon, the manor was conveyed to him. Sir Charles's daughter marrying Arthur Lord Capel of Hadham, the manor came by descent to the present Earl of Essex.

The church has been already described under St. Alban's.

ABSA, NOW APESBURY.

IN the time of the Conqueror this manor was in the possession of the abbey of St. Alban's, and was worth 40s. in the time of the Confessor. The abbots and monks held it till the dissolution, when it came to the crown; upon which Henry VIII. granted it to Ralph Rowlet and his heirs. It afterwards came to the Briscoe family of London Colney.

The church was erected upon a hill by Ulfen, or Ulfing, one of the abbots of St. Alban's, in 950, in the reign of King Ethelred. It is in the deanery of St. Alban's, and diocese of London; and is rated in the king's books at 15*l.* per annum. The church has a small tower at the west end, with a short spire upon it.

Park-ward was denominated from the manor of Park, rated separately by itself from any other place, and is part of this manor.

Sleepe and Smallford are other hamlets, part of the manor of Park, which lie in the parish of St. Peter's, in the town of St. Alban's; but are also rated by themselves from any other part of the parish; and are chargeable by the high constable of this division.

Tittenhanger is also a small hamlet here, but chargeable by itself, and laid to this division.

St. Michael's is one of the three parishes of St. Alban's already treated of; the parish extending out of the town is chargeable in all taxes to this division.

Windridge-ward comprehends the manor of Windridge in St. Alban's; it is part of the parish of St. Michael, where the church is erected; it is rateable distinctly by itself from the parish, and is charged in this division.

REDBURNE.

REDBURNE.

THIS is a considerable village, extending about half a mile on the road to Dunstable, and is chiefly indebted to travellers for support. Egelwine the Black and Wincelfred his wife, with the consent of Edward the Confessor, gave it to the abbey of St. Alban's; it was then worth 16*l.* per annum. This place was famous for the reliques of Amphibalus, to whom St. Alban gave shelter, and which were found here. They were translated to St. Alban's monastery, where a magnificent shrine was erected for their reception. The town stands upon the military highway called Watling-street. The manor continued in the abbey till the dissolution, when it came to the crown. It is now the property of Lord Viscount Grimston, having passed to that nobleman from the Rowlets in the same manner as Gorhambury. The church was rebuilt by the abbot Whethamsted, in the reign of Henry VI. It stands at some distance from the village to the west, in the deanery of St. Alban's, and diocese of London; and is rated in the king's books at 16*l.* 0*s.* 5*d.* per annum. Lord Grimston is patron. A small priory of Benedictines was founded here about 1195, and dedicated to St. Amphibalus. The number of inhabitants amounts to 1153.

The manor of Aignell borrowed its name from John de Aignell, who was lord of it in the reign of Edward II. John of Whethamsted purchased the manor in the reign of Edward IV. for the church of St. Alban's, in which it remained till the dissolution, when it came to the crown, and was conveyed to John Cocks, who held it in the reign of Edward VI.; from which family it came to that of Besouth, in whom it remained till Francis King, Gent., by the marriage of one of the daughters and heiress of John Besouth, came into possession of it.

SANDRIDGE.

THIS parish was part of the revenues of the Mercian kings. Egfrid, son of Offa, gave it to St. Alban's abbey. It derives the name from the soil of the place, which is very sandy: and age, in the Saxon language, signifies the service of bond tenants. In the Confessor's reign it was worth 18*l.* a year. It continued in the monastery till the dissolution, when it came to the crown. Henry VIII. gave it to
 Ralph

Ralph Rowlet, Esq. Ralph Jennings, Esq., who married his daughter, then had it. He was of Church, in the county of Somerset. Upon the death of Ralph Jennings, Esq., his descendant, Sarah Countess of Marlborough, who was his sister and coheirs, came to this estate, which by descent went to the Duke of Marlborough.

The vicarage is in the deanery of St. Alban, and diocese of London; and is rated in the king's books at 8*l.* per annum. The lord of the manor is patron.

C U D D I C O T.

THIS parish was part of the ancient possessions of the monastery of St. Alban's, to which it belonged at the time of the Conquest. At that time it belonged to the hundred of Broadwater; the name signifies a place for sheep, or small cottage. Henry III. granted a fair here to the abbot yearly, and a market every Friday.

The manor of Sisseverne was possessed by Henry Chevall in the reign of Edward I. It continued in this family till in the reign of Henry VIII. John Penn marrying Lucy, daughter of Edmund Chevall, came into possession of it. Thomas Penn in 1659 conveyed it to George Poyner, citizen and merchant of London; he built a house here, and died in 1670. The custom of taking surrenders in this manor is the same as in Park manor.

The rectory was appropriated to the use of the monastery of St. Alban's by Pope Honorius in the year 1218, and the abbots were patrons till the dissolution, when Henry VIII. granted the advowson of the vicarage to the bishops of Ely and successors; it is rated at 7*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.* in the king's books. The church stands on a dry hill near the manor-house, in the deanery of St. Alban's, and diocese of London. At the west end is a square tower, with five bells. In Mr. Penn's grounds grew a walnut-tree in 1627 of that extent, that the branches covered 76 poles of ground. He had at that time of day been frequently offered 50*l.* for the tree.

B R A N D F I E L D.

THIS place was given by the Conqueror to Hardwyn d'Escalers, who granted it to the abbey of St. Alban's. Thomas à Becket is reported to have possessed this

benefice

benefice as his first piece of preferment. A small pond here is still called after his name. After the dissolution the manor was given to George Dacres, Esq.; he sold it to John Foster, who granted it to Edward Skegg, Esq., who conveyed it to John Smith, Esq., in Elizabeth's reign; his son sold it to Sir Henry Boteler, whose son was created Baron Boteler, of Brandfield, in the fourth year of Charles I.'s reign. William Lord Boteler left several sisters coheiresses; by one of them it came to George Viscount Grandison of Ireland, who purchased the remaining interest in the estate, which had been divided. By the marriage of Lady Gertrude Emilia Villiers, heiress, and only daughter of George Mason Villiers Earl Grandison, who died in 1800, with Lord Henry Stuart, third son of the Marquis of Bute, this estate came into his lordship's possession. Brandfield-place is a very agreeable, though small retirement.

The rectory was a donative, and the abbot and convent of St. Alban's received the profit of it, and found a curate to perform the duty: but since the dissolution the lords of the manor have been the patrons. The church stands in the middle of the parish, in the deanery of St. Alban's, and in the diocese of London: it consists only of a body, with a small chancel at the east end.

S H E E P H A L L.

THIS parish was so called from its pastures, which were very productive, and the quality wholesome for the feeding of sheep. It was part of the ancient monastery of St. Alban. Stigand Archbishop of Canterbury, in the time of the Conqueror, held some land here under the abbot, as appears from Domesday-book: it was at that time in Broadwater hundred; and in the time of the Confessor was worth 4*l.* per annum. It continued in this abbey till the dissolution, when it came to the crown. Henry VIII. conveyed it to George Nodes, formerly tenant to it under the last abbot; he was serjeant of the buckhounds to that king, Edward VI., and Mary and Elizabeth; and in his family it remained a very considerable time.

The rectory is valued in the king's books at 9*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.*, and the lord of the manor is the patron. Here are several monuments and inscriptions to the Nodes family.

THE HUNDRED OF DACORUM.

IN the time of the Conqueror this hundred was divided by the names of Danaïs and Treung hundreds; but about the reign of Edward III. they were united into one, now called Dacorum; which name it assumed from the Danes, who were formerly its inhabitants. It was originally part of the king's revenue; the sheriffs and commissioners for the king's taxes keep their sessions and public meetings at Hemel Hempstead. The hundred is bounded on the north and east with the hundreds of Calsho and Broadwater, on the south by Middlesex, and on the west by Buckinghamshire; and contains several parishes and hamlets, which are divided between three high constables. In the first division are the parishes and hamlets of Wheathampstead, Harpenden, North Mimms, Shenley, Theobald-street, Levesden, and Busby, which lie dispersed from the rest. The second division contains King's Langley, Hemel Hempstead, Bovington, Flaunders, Little Gadesden, Frisden, Great Gadesden, Studham, Kensworth, Cadington, and Flamstead. In the third division are, Berkhamstead, North Church, Aldebury, Tring, Wigington, Long Marston, Wilsterne, Pottenham, and Colehill.

WHEATHAMPSTEAD.

THIS place derives its name from the quantity of excellent wheat which it affords. The chief manor was part of the possessions of Edward the Confessor, which he employed in provisions for his table, until he gave it to the abbey and convent of Westminster, who held it in the time of the Conqueror: it was then worth 30*l.* a year. In Domesday-book it is recorded as Watamestede: it is still in the possession of the dean and chapter of Westminster. It was at Wheathampstead that the barons, who confederated against Edward II. and his favourite Gaveston, assembled their forces. This place gave birth to the celebrated abbot John Bostock, surnamed De Whethampsted, who was educated at Gloucester College, Oxford. The number of inhabitants here, under the late act, amounted to 1043.

The manor of Lamere takes its name from an ancient family. Pontius Lamere was lord of it in the reign of Henry III. It is situated upon a dry hill. It came in

process of time to Sir William Roche, lord mayor of London in 1345. His daughter marrying Sir John Boteler, of Woodhall, in this county, it came to his possession; and his son sold it to Sir William Garrard, of Sittingbourne, in Kent. Sir Bennet Garrard, his descendant, dying in 1767 without issue, the estate devolved on the descendants of Jane, daughter of an uncle of Sir John Garrard, Bart.; which lady married Montagu Drake of Shardeloes, in Buckinghamshire, and was grandmother to William Drake, Esq., M. P. for Amersham. His younger son, Charles Drake Garrard, Esq., brother to T. D. T. Drake, Esq., of Amersham, is the present possessor of the estate; the mansion-house of which is a handsome building, situated on an eminence.

The rectory was a mesnalty, derived out of the manor of Wheathampstead, and is situated in the deanery of Berkhamstead, in the diocese of Lincoln. This rectory, with the chapel of Harpington, was rated at 42*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.* in the king's books, of which the king is patron. The church is on the west side of the town, built after the manner of a cathedral, having a cross and tower in the middle, with a spire and balcony round the middle of the spire. It is dedicated to St. Helen. Here are some handsome monuments of the Garrard family, and some to the Brockets and Seventhorpes.

H A R P I N G D O N.

THIS parish is situated about three miles distant from Wheathampstead, upon a hill towards the south; it is a hamlet belonging to that parish, and was waste ground in the time of William the Conqueror, as there is no mention made of it in Domesday-book; but upon the improvement in the lands, the Hoos, an ancient family in the county, came into possession of them. In 1292 Robert Hoo was lord of it. It continued in this family till it was sold to Matthew Cressy in the reign of Edward IV.; in this family it remained for many descents, till it came to William Cressy, who died in 1558. His son Edmund left an only daughter, married to Edmund Bardolfe. Richard Bardolfe sold it to Sir John Witherong, Bart., in whose family it remained some time.

The manor of Anabull was so called from William Anabull, who held it, and was lord of it in the reign of Henry VI. Christopher Smith held it in the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

The church is a neat building, situated near the town, with a square tower adjoining the west end, and a short spire upon it. It is a chapel of ease to Wheathampstead.

NORTH MIMMS.

THIS parish lies about eight miles south of Wheathampstead, dispersed among other towns of Cashio hundred. William the Conqueror granted it to Robert Bishop of Chester. In the Confessor's time it was worth 10*l.* per annum. In a short time after this it came into the possession of Geoffrey de Mandeville; he erected the church, and gave the tithes to the support of the great abbey, which he founded at Walden in Essex, and died in 1144. This manor after that passed as those of Sawbridgeworth and Gedlestone did till the name was extinguished, when it came to Beatrice, wife of William Say, next heir of that line. Some years after this the manor came into the possession of Sir Robert Knolles, who had advanced from a low fortune by a military course of life to a large estate. He lived in the reign of Edward III. It afterwards passed to the Coningsbys by the marriage of a female and coheirefs, and from them by purchase to Sir Nicholas Hyde, Bart., whose granddaughter conveyed it in marriage to Peregrine Osborne, Duke of Leeds: since the death of the late duke, who died in 1799, Henry Brown, Esq., has become the possessor; his seat here, at North Mimms park, is very rich in scenery, with an excellent mansion-house.

The manor of Brookmans was formerly derived from the manor of North Mimms. It is held by fealty and rent. Sir Paul Pindar is the first lord to be met with who had possession of it; and at his death it was sold to Sir William Dudley, who in 1666 conveyed it to Andrew Fountain of Saul, in the county of Norfolk. He built a good house here in 1682, from whence is a beautiful view over Essex in front, and from the west, which is the back part, over Bedfordshire. It has jurisdiction of court-baron only, and lies within the leet of North Mimms. Lord Somers had possession of it afterwards; from whom it came to the descendants of his eldest sister, married to Charles Cocks, Esq., whose family have since been created peers. It is now the property of S. R. Gaussen, Esq.

The manor of Potterels was so called from an owner of that name, and is a manor of itself, or part of the demesne of some adjacent manor; it was in the family of

Coningsby; within it is a place called the Dale, in a wood furrounded with trees; and when any rains fall, a great flow of waters runs into a place called Kitesburne, and thence runs in a channel through the woods to this bottom, where the water drains through small holes in the ground, and is supposed to run by certain wells near the church at about half a mile's distance.

The manor of Gobions is so termed from the ancient lords of it, of whom Sir Richard Gobion was seated here in the reign of King Stephen. In Henry VII.'s reign Sir John More possessed it, father of the famous Sir Thomas More, whose family had inherited it for several generations. It was seized afterwards by Henry VIII., with his other estates, and settled on the Princess Elizabeth, who retained it till her death; after which it again came into the More family; but since has passed through various hands. It was lately the property of John Hunter, Esq., director of the East India Company. The gardens were once celebrated for their beauty.

The church is in the deanery of Berkhamstead, and diocese of Lincoln; it has a square tower, and five bells. The vicarage is rated in the king's books at the yearly value of 10*l*.

S H E N L E Y.

SHENLEY is situated about four miles distant from St. Alban's to the south, and in the reign of the Conqueror the church of St. Alban's and Geoffrey de Mandeville held it. It chiefly consists of a few buildings near the church. After Geoffrey de Mandeville, who gave the great tithes to the church of Walden in Essex, it came to his son; and from him to Adam de Stratton, chief baron of the Exchequer, and Walter de Mereden: Adam de Stratton being attainted, the manor came to the crown, where it remained till the reign of Edward III., when it was conveyed to John Poultney, lord mayor of London in 1331. Stephen Ewre and Joshua Lomax, whom we have frequently mentioned before, and who were attorneys at law, great purchasers of landed estates, in the reign of Charles II., bought this estate. It remained in the possession of the Lomax family, of whom Joshua was sheriff of the county in the above reign.

Porters is a manor here, and the beautiful residence of the Marchioness of Sligo, daughter of that great naval officer Richard Lord Howe: it is an irregular house,

but

but is situated in a very pleasant, though small park, whence it commands some beautiful prospects. The estate was formerly part of the manor of the Weald, and has had various possessors.

Colney-house in this parish is the seat of George Anderson, Esq.; it is about a mile to the south-west of London Colney. The estate was also part of the Weald, and had the name of Colney chapel, which stood in the park formerly, and is still surrounded by a moat. The present mansion was built by Governor Bouchier about twenty-five years since, at the cost of 53,000*l.*, including the expenses attending the pleasure-grounds. The park contains 150 acres. The house is a handsome building, with two wings and two fronts. The present owner purchased it of the Earl of Kingston, who bought it of the Margrave of Anspach, who resided here about three years.

The church is dedicated to St. Botolph, and consists of an oblong body, without either tower or aisles. Stephen Ewre and Joshua Lomax sold the rectory in 1682 from the manor to Thomas Laundre, vicar. The vicarage is rated in the king's books at 16*l.* 8*s.* per annum. The parsonage-house is pleasantly situated about two miles from the church southward, on a hill. The present rector was nephew to the Rev. Peter Newcome, historian of St. Alban's abbey, who was also rector here, and to whose family the patronage belongs. The church is in the deanery of Berkhamstead and diocese of Lincoln.

THEOBALD-STREET.

THIS place was called Titteberst in Domesday-book. In the time of William Rufus, Hugh de Titteberst gave all his lands here to St. Alban's abbey; and William Racon gave all his possessions here to the same monastery in the reign of Henry I.

Levesden is a hamlet, charged by itself to the king's taxes, and is part of this hundred, though part of the parish and manor of Watford, most of which lies in the hundred of Caisho.

BUSHY.

B U S H Y.

THIS parish was originally called De Dumis, from the bushes with which the woods abounded here formerly. It was one of the manors which William the Conqueror gave to Geoffrey de Mandeville. In the reign of the Confessor it was worth 15*l.* a year. In the time of Henry III. the manor belonged to David de Jarpinville; it shortly after came to the crown, when Edward III. granted it to Edmund of Woodstock, his third brother, Earl of Kent, who was beheaded, by the influence of Queen Isabella and her paramour Mortimer. From this time it descended in the same manner as the manor of Ware, till it became vested in the crown again by the death of Margaret Countess of Salisbury in the reign of Henry VIII. Queen Mary granted it to Sir Thomas Hastings, Knight; from that family it passed through different hands till it came to the Earl of Essex. It is now the property of John Capper, Esq., who has a charming seat here, called Wiggan-hall, and whose family purchased it about the commencement of the last century.

The manor of Bourne-hall was in the possession of Sir Thomas Barnard in Edward II.'s reign, who disposed of it to John de Wengrave, citizen of London. In Henry V.'s reign Reginald de West possessed it. It continued in this family, who were afterwards created Lords De la Ware, till the reign of Elizabeth, when it came to a family of the name of Hickman; and from them to John Mayne, Esq., of Bovingdon. His youngest daughter married Sir William Glasscock, Knight, in Charles II.'s reign, to whom she conveyed this manor; they sold it to George Hadley, Esq., of East Barnet. Sir George Walker, Knight, built a good house upon the river Colne here; and afterwards sold it to Robert Marsham, Esq., in whom it remained, and who was afterwards a baronet. The house was large, and the gardens well laid out.

The church is a small building, in the deanery of St. Alban's, and diocese of London. The rectory is rated in the king's books at 18*l.* 2*s.* per annum. The houses of Bushy are chiefly situated on the high road, and the number of inhabitants 856.

KING'S LANGLEY.

THIS manor was given to Earl Moreton, a Norman baron, who came over with William the Conqueror, and was by him rewarded with this for his services. In the reign of the Confessor it was worth 8*l*. William, son of this earl, raised a rebellion against Henry I., and by that means forfeited this manor, which came to the crown. Henry III. erected a royal palace here, from whence it derived the name of King's Langley. Very few traces of this building are now visible; they are chiefly confined to a foundation-wall, which occupies a considerable piece of ground, and proves the building to have been square. Part of the site is now occupied by a farmhouse. Its situation is high and agreeable. The estate consists of about six or seven acres, and is the property of Mrs. King. While the palace remained in royal hands, it was frequently the seat of the kings. Richard II. was buried here, after his murder at Pontefract by Sir Piers Exton; but Henry V. removed his body to Westminster. King Edward IV. gave to Thomas Betts, prior of Langley, and his successors, his estates here; Henry VII. gave all the manor and park of Langley to Queen Catharine; and Henry VIII. granted to Anne, his queen, all this manor of Langley, with appurtenances, during her life. The prior and convent of the priory at Langley surrendered all their lands into the hands of that king at the dissolution, which was then valued at 127*l*. 14*s*. King Philip and Queen Mary gave and restored to this priory all the site and houses which belonged to them; but in 1559 it reverted to the crown in Elizabeth's reign, who gave to the Bishop of Ely all the rectory and lands which were part of the late estate, and valued at 40*l*. per annum. King James I. gave to Edward Newport and John Compton and their heirs all the site, &c.: that king also gave to his son, Prince Henry of Wales, all his manor, park, and chase; but at his death, without issue, it returned to the crown. It then was given to Prince Charles. King Charles I. gave the manors and estate to Sir Charles Morrison to farm; and afterwards Sir Charles granted them to Sir Baptist Hicks and his heirs for ever; from Sir Baptist they came to different persons; and at length to Thomas Houlker, Gent., of London; his son sold them to Henry Smith, Gent.

The priory of Dominican or preaching friars was founded here by Roger, son of Robert Helle, so called from his playing the devil, as it is termed, with the

Welfh. The buildings were afterwards much enlarged, and the revenues increased by King Edward I. It was the most splendid establishment of the kind in England.

The rectory is appropriated to the perpetual use of the Bishop of Ely and his successors. It was valued at 8*l.* per annum; of which the bishops have been patrons since the Reformation. It was augmented by Bishop Laney of that diocese, who granted to the vicar 36*l.* 10*s.* per annum. The church stands on the side of a hill, not far from the river, in the deanery of Berkhamstead, and diocese of Lincoln. It consists of a nave, chancel, and aisles, with an embattled tower at the west end. Here are several ancient monuments, particularly that of Edmund of Langley, son of Edward III., who was buried here.

Langley-bury, the seat of Long Kingsman, Esq., was built by Lord Chief Justice Raymond, in the reign of Charles II. It stands on rising ground, nearly opposite to Hunton Bridge.

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD.

OFFA gave six mansions in Hemel Hempstead, which is situated about three miles north of King's Langley, to the monastery of St. Alban's; but the other part remained in the possession of the Saxon kings, till William the Conqueror gave it to Earl Moreton. In the Confessor's reign it was worth 25*l.* a year. The abbots of St. Alban's held the former till the dissolution, and Earl Morton held the latter till it came to the crown. Henry III. gave it to his brother Richard, who afterwards was King of Almaine and Earl of Cornwall; from whom it came to his son, who, in Edward III.'s reign, granted it to the church of Efferugg, which he had founded, with all the appurtenances, except the advowson of the church and his warren there. This town was so called from an high hempland, which was probably at that time planted on the hill at the east end of the town. John Waterhouse, auditor to King Henry VIII., gave that prince a great entertainment at his house, which was Hempstead-bury, the seat of his ancestors; and at his request King Henry incorporated the town with a bailiff, and certain inhabitants, to have a common seal; he also granted them a market, and a fair annually. The market is now become very considerable for wheat. Henshaw Henley, Esq., was owner of the

manor in the time of Salmon, who wrote a history of this county; and his descendant, the late Thomas Halfey, Esq., of Gaddefden-place, represented the county in three parliaments. He died in 1788, leaving two children; Thomas, who died an infant; and the latter, who was his sole heir, and has lately been married. Hemel Hempstead is a respectable market-town, and stands pleasantly on rising ground.

The vicarage is in the deanery of Berkhamstead, and diocese of Lincoln; and is rated in the king's books at 16*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.* Upon every vacancy the Bishop of Lincoln nominates, and the dean and chapter of St. Paul, London, present the new vicar. The church appears to have been erected in the Norman times, but has been since much enlarged. It is built in form of a cross, and consists of a nave, chancel, transept, and side aisles, with a tower embattled, surmounted by a spire. The charitable donations are few: Mr. Warren, by will, gave 1200*l.* stock 3 per cents, in trust; the dividends to be applied to the support of fifty poor widows, which amount to 7*l.* 10*s.* per annum to each, and to the establishment of two free-schools, one for thirteen boys, the other for fifteen girls. The trade of this town has been much increased lately by the Junction Canal, which runs near it. The population amounted to 2722 under the late act.

Hempstead-bury, at the bottom of the town, is the property of — Hilton, Esq.: it is a neat modern building; the grounds are not extensive, but very pleasant. This gentleman is descended from the ancient and noble family of Hilton, of Hilton-castle, Durham. The estate was the property of the Earl of Marchmont, and has been possessed by various persons during the last century. A small part of the old mansion, where Henry VIII. was entertained, is yet visible. The estate includes the town of Hemel Hempstead, though its extent is only thirty-four acres and an half.

B O V I N G T O N.

IN the time of the Conqueror this manor was part of the possessions which that king gave to Earl Morton, and which afterwards returned to the crown; from whence probably it came to John D'Arcy, who held it in the time of Edward III., when it was called the manor of Westbrook. It continued in the D'Arcy family for some time; but little is known of it till the reign of Henry VII., when it

came to the possession of John Mayne of Ascot, in the county of Bucks. It continued with that family till it was purchased of them by Joshua Lomax, Esq., who giving it to his younger son, he built a good mansion-house here.

The manor of Martials was so called from one of its possessors; it passed with the former manor to the same persons till it came to Thomas Lomax, Esq. This village is situated upon a hill. The church is erected in the middle of the town, in the deanery of Berkhamstead, and diocese of Lincoln; it has a square tower at the west end, and a short spire upon it.

FLAUNDEN.

FLAUNDEN was originally waste ground in the time of the Conqueror; it belonged to the manor of Hemel Hempstead, and was afterwards granted to Thomas Flaunden, who, after having much improved it, called it after his name, and it became a village like Bovington, but still remained part of the same manor. He erected a small church in the vale by the river. The vicar of Hempstead finds a curate at Bovington and at this place.

GADDES DEN PARVA.

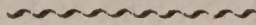
THIS parish was so denominated from the vale where the river Gade rises; it is three miles distant from Hemel Hempstead towards the north, and was held of Earl Morton in the time of the Conqueror. In the Confessor's time it was worth 4*l.* per annum: from Earl Morton it came to his son Edmund Earl of Cornwall, who granted it for his foundation of Bons Hommes at Ashridge; they were monks of the order of St. Augustine, and were clad in sky-coloured garments: this society consisted of twenty clerks, thirteen of whom were presbyters. This monastery was a house of great repute in the time of Edward I., for that king held a parliament here. These Bons Hommes held the monastery till the dissolution, when it came to the crown, and continued there till Queen Elizabeth granted it to Jane Lady Cheyney and her heirs, from whom it passed by sale. In James I.'s reign it was conveyed by indenture tripartite to Thomas Lord Ellesmere, and Sir John Egerton, his son, afterwards Earl of Bridgewater, in whose posterity it remains.

The

The manors of Gaddefden-parva, Ashridge, and Frisden, were granted by Queen Elizabeth to Jane Lady Cheyney and her heirs; they were afterwards sold to Ralph Marshall and heirs; who conveyed them to Randolph Crew, Thomas Chamberlain, and their heirs; from whom they came to Lord Ellesmere and Sir John Egerton, in whose posterity they continue.

The manor of Lucys was so called from Sir Jeffery de Lucy, or some of his ancestors, who were lords here; one of them conveyed it to Edmund Earl of Cornwall; and he gave it for the support of the religious house which he founded at Efferuge. Sir Robert Dormer held the manor in Queen Elizabeth's reign; and it soon after came to Lord Ellesmere as the foregoing.

The rectory is in the deanery of Berkhamstead, and diocese of Lincoln; and is rated at the yearly value of 11*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.* in the king's books. The church has a square tower at the west end, with a spire. In the church are some good monuments to the Egerton family, Earls of Bridgewater. The learned physician, John de Gaddefden, was born in this parish, and flourished about the beginning of the fourteenth century. He is mentioned by Chaucer, and wrote many treatises.



G R E A T G A D D E S D E N .

THIS estate belonged formerly to the Earls of Salisbury; and afterwards passed over to the Zouch family; and from them by a female heir to the Hollands, afterwards Earls of Huntingdon. At the death of the last earl, who died fighting by the side of the Earl of Warwick at the battle of Barnet, it was seized by the crown, and by Henry VII. was granted to Thomas Lord Stanley, Earl of Derby. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth the daughters and coheiresses of Ferdinando Earl of Derby conveyed it to Sir Robert Cecil, who, in the following year, granted it to Sir Adolphus Carey of Berkhamstead; and by his heirs it was sold to the Lord Chancellor Ellesmere; from whom it has descended to the Earl of Bridgewater.

The manor of Southall is another lordship in this parish, which was formerly part of the possessions of the family of Clerks; from this family it came to Henry Lake of Buckland in Bucks, who in 1658 conveyed it to John Halsey, Esq., of

Gaddeſden, and Thomas Bampford of Aſhridge; they conveyed it to the Earl of Bridgewater.

Gaddeſden-place is an elegant manſion, which was erected about the year 1773 by the late Thomas Halfey, Eſq.

The rectory is in the impropriation of the Halfey family; it is ſituated in the deanery of Berkhamſtead, and dioceſe of Lincoln. The vicarage is valued at 10*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.*; and the Halfey family are patrons. The church ſtands about the middle of the town; it has a ſquare tower, with a ſhort ſpire upon it; and contains ſeveral monuments to the Halfey family. Here are alſo ſome ſmall benefactions.

S T U D H A M.

THE manor of Barwith is part of this place, ſituated about three miles diſtant from Great Gaddeſden, northward in the county of Bucks. This manor lies in the county of Hertford, and formerly belonged to the crown, till Henry I. gave it to the priory of Dunſtable, which he founded; and in them it continued till the diſſolution, when it came to the crown. William Belfield, citizen of London, was in poſſeſſion of it in the time of Queen Elizabeth, and in this family it remained a conſiderable time.

F L A M S T E D.

THIS pariſh lies upon a hill, about two miles ſouth of Cadington, and was formerly called Verlamſtedt, from its ſituation on the river Ver, and was part of the poſſeſſions of the abbot of St. Alban's. Leofſtan, the twelfth abbot, gave it to three knights to defend the country, Thurnot, Waltheof, and Thurman, in the reign of the Confefſor. But when the Conqueror had ſubdued the realm, he took it from them, and gave it to Roger de Tony, a noble Norman; it was then worth about 12*l.* a year. From the deſcendants of Tony it paſſed by an heiress in the time of Edward II., named Alice, who married Guy de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick: his deſcendant, the famous earl, being killed near Barnet, fighting againſt Edward

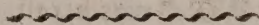
Edward IV.; his possessions were seized by that monarch; and being afterwards legally claimed by Henry VII., the manor of Flamsted continued in the crown till the 27th of Henry VIII. It was then granted to George Ferrars and his heirs; from his family it passed to Edward Peck, serjeant at law, and through various other hands. The manor consists of about six or seven hundred acres of demesne.

The priory of St. Giles in the Wood was a religious house in this parish, founded by Roger de Tony, and dedicated to St. Giles: it consisted of a prioress and ten nuns. It has lately been called Beechwood, from the quantity of beech which grows here. In time, from different grants which were made to this priory, the manor became extensive; but upon the dissolution coming to the crown, it was granted by Henry VIII. to Sir Richard Page, Knight: he left only one daughter, who married Sir — Skipwith of Lincolnshire; he and his wife soon after conveyed it to — Saunders of Puttenham, in this county. His descendant, Thomas Saunders, Esq., made this an excellent seat, and the place of his residence. He died in 1693, leaving Anne, his only daughter, married to Sir Edward Sebright, in whose possession it remained.

The rectory of this church is appropriate, and has been from time immemorial in the crown, and farmed for a term of years, the farmers usually hiring a curate to officiate for as small a salary as they could, until James I. granted the reversion to trustees, who conveyed it to Mr. Gunfly, then incumbent, in 1618; and the reversion, after the expiration of a lease then in being, from the crown for 42 years, was devised to his next heir at law, of whom Thomas Saunders, Esq., purchased it; but this was only part of the tithes: the rectory and other part of the tithes were devised to the master and fellows of University College, Oxford, and their successors, ordaining by will, that for the future the curate should have a salary of 60*l.* per annum, and the master and fellows always should appoint the curate. The church is in the deanery of Berkhamstead, and diocese of Lincoln, dedicated to St. Leonard, and situated upon a hill; it is rated in the king's books at 4*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* per annum: it consists of a body, chancel, and side aisles, with a tower at the west end, and a spire. Here are some very curious monuments.

This parish is very extensive, containing six thousand acres or more of enclosed land, and the greater part of it lies upon high ground, with a vale in the middle, through which a small rivulet runs, from a place called Row-beech, in Watling-street; the air is clear and wholesome, and the place is woody. There is a tradition,
that

that in the infancy of Edward VI. he was removed here by the advice of his physicians for some time, and resided in the religious house just mentioned ; there are no remains of the old house. The parish consists chiefly of arable land, a clay mixed with flint, and in most places chalk is to be found.



BERKHAMPSTEAD ST. PETER'S.

THE Saxons anciently called this place Berghampstedt, because it was situated among the hills, berg signifying a hill ; ham, a town ; and stedt, a seat. In this place the kings of Mercia resided and kept their court ; among whom Withred king of Kent held a council here in 697 ; from which time the manor remained in the crown till William the Conqueror invaded the island, when the castle here was appointed to be the place of meeting between the Norman sovereign and the chiefs who had opposed his power, headed by abbot Frederic of St. Alban's abbey. That prince soon after violated his oath, seized the possessions of the English, and divided them amongst his followers. Berkhamstead was given to Robert Earl of Morton, his half-brother. In the time of the Confessor it was worth 24*l*. The castle or palace which the Saxons had erected was by this earl much enlarged and fortified ; but his son and successor, William, having rebelled against King Henry I., it was seized, with all his other possessions, and came to the crown, not before the castle was razed to the ground. The castle was, however, rebuilt in the time of Stephen, or early in the reign of Henry II. ; so that the demolition was probably only partial. Henry II. granted many privileges to the inhabitants of Berkhamstead, where he kept his court. The castle and honour of Berkhamstead remained in the crown till the reign of King John, who granted them to Geoffrey Fitz-Piers, Earl of Essex, for 100*l*. per annum, with the knight's fee belonging to it. On his death in 1213 they reverted to the crown, or, perhaps, were seized by the king in his wars with the barons. About 1216 Lewis Dauphin of France, in conjunction with the English nobility, whom John's tyranny obliged to apply for foreign aid, attacked this place ; and after a siege of some continuance, the castle surrendered. Henry III. granted it, with the earldom of Cornwall, to Richard his youngest brother, afterwards king of the Romans : he died here in 1272, after the king had granted him a fair annually

here

here of eight days continuance. At the death of his son, who had founded the college of Bons Hommes, the honour and castle reverted to the crown, and were in the reign of Edward I. granted to Piers Gaveston on his marriage with Margaret, daughter of Joan of Acre, the king's sister, which was solemnized at this castle. Upon the violent death of this nobleman his possessions and titles devolved to the crown; and in the reign of Edward III. John of Eltham, brother of the king, was advanced to the earldom of Cornwall, and two years after had a grant of the honour, castle, and town of Berkhamstead, with other manors, to the value of 2000 marks per annum; but dying without issue in 1336, his estates were granted by the king to Edward the Black Prince. Richard, the second son of the Black Prince, frequently resided here. Henry of Monmouth, afterwards Henry V., possessed them; and from him they came to Henry VI., and to his son Henry of Westminster. In the reign of Edward IV. the castle and lordship were given to John Lord Wenlock. The king's mother, the Duchess of York, died here in Henry VII.'s reign in 1496. Since that time the castle and honour have descended from the crown to the successive Princes of Wales. In Queen Elizabeth's reign the castle was demised for ten years to Sir Edward Carey, by the payment annually of a red rose; she also appointed him high steward of this honour and manor, and conveyed to him and his wife and heirs the mansion-house, which Sir Edward had built out of the ruins of the castle, with the lodge and park, by a rent of 8*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* In the next century the Careys' interest in the estate was sold to John Sayer, Esq.; but in the beginning of the last, it was purchased by the Roper family. John Roper, Esq., the present proprietor, of Berkhamstead-place, is the lessee of the Castle estate under the Prince of Wales.

Berkhamstead castle was situated at the east end of the town; the whole is now nearly in ruins. The works are of a circular form; the walls were about eighteen or twenty feet high; the ditches were wide and deep, and the ramparts remarkably strong. The keep was a tower of a circular form, and was built on the top of a high mount, moated round. Large trees grow there now, and the inner court is an orchard. On the west side near the rampart runs the small river Bulbourne.

The town of Berkhamstead is situated about thirty miles from London; it is a considerable market town; it consists of a handsome broad street, of some length. Here is an alms-house, built by Mr. John Sayer and his wife, who endowed it with 1300*l.* for the maintenance of six widows. Here is also a charity-school

school and a free grammar-school; the latter is a handsome brick building, well endowed, the king being patron, and the warden of All Souls College visitor. The school was built in the time of Henry VIII., and incorporated by the style of master, chaplain, and usher, of Dean Incent's free-school and chantry of Berkhamstead. In the fourteenth year of Edward III.'s reign two members were returned here to parliament. The honour of Berkhamstead includes upwards of fifty-five lordships and manors, in the counties of Herts, Bucks, and Northampton. The population of Berkhamstead is about 1690 inhabitants. King James I. made it a corporation, consisting of a bailiff and burgeses, twelve in number, who were to choose a recorder and town-clerk; but the corporation was so impoverished by the civil wars, in the succeeding reign, that the government fell away, and it has not since been renewed. It has a market weekly on Mondays, and three annual fairs, on Shrove Monday and Whit Monday for cattle, and St. James's day for cheese. In the reign of King John there were here two hospitals for poor and infirm persons, one dedicated to St. John the Baptist; the other, which was appropriated to lepers of both sexes, was dedicated to St. John the Evangelist. There was also in this town, in Edward II.'s reign, an hospital dedicated to St. Thomas the Martyr.

The church is a rectory and rural deanery, situated in the deanery of Berkhamstead, and diocese of Lincoln; and is rated at 20*l.* yearly value in the king's books, of which the crown is patron. It is dedicated to St. Peter, and was, according to tradition, built by Richard Torrington in the time of King John; the tower at the west end was rebuilt by John Philip. It is built in form of a cross. The sepulchral ornaments in this church are very numerous and interesting. The charities here are very bountiful. King James gave 100*l.*; King Charles 100*l.*; and Prince Charles 100*l.* more; Sir Henry Atkins 200*l.*; and there are various other benefactions for the poor.

Berkhamstead-place, the seat of John Roper, Esq., was the nursery for King James's children; it stands on a pleasant eminence adjoining the town. Great part of the building erected by the Careys, was burnt down in Lord Treasurer Weston's time, who then lived there. The mansion is an irregular building.

BERKHAMPSTEAD ST. MARY'S.

THIS parish is about a mile distant from the former to the north, and was probably waste ground belonging to it. It is omitted in Domesday-book, and has since been improved, taking its name from the saint to whom the church is dedicated. It has lately been called Northchurch. There were several mesnalties here formerly, of which Northcote is the chief, which were in the possession of Nicholas de Bosco in the reign of Edward I., who held it of the honour of Berkhamstead; by marriage of Margaret, his daughter, it came to Thomas Luton. From this family, in whom it remained a short time, Jeremy Hamden came to it, and died in Henry VIII.'s reign. From them it passed to William Edlyn, Gent., and his successors.

Here were two other mesnalties, called Maudlins and Durrants, which also were held of the manor of Berkhamstead, but which long since have been dismembered and sold into parcels to different persons, who now pay rent and services for them at every court held for Berkhamstead manor. The Kings, Queens, Dukes, and Earls of Cornwall, have been patrons, and had the advowson and gift of patronage of Northchurch till Queen Elizabeth's reign, when she, by letters patent, granted them to Sir Thomas Bemor, who granted them to Sir Edward Carey, Knight; but now the advowson is returned to the crown. The rectory is rated in the king's books at the yearly value of 21*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.* There were several chapels of ease here, which are now converted into barns.

W I G G I N T O N.

THIS manor was bestowed upon Earl Morton by William the Conqueror; and in the Confessor's reign was worth 6*l.* It remained in this earl's possession till the reign of King John, when it came to the possession of Eve Brock and Margaret Wiggeton: Geoffrey de Lucy at that time was lord of the manor, in whose name

it remained till Sir Jeffrey de Lucy conveyed it to Sir Henry Corbett, who held it in the twenty-first of Henry VII. John Churchill purchased it of this family in Queen Elizabeth's reign; then James Williams had it; and after him William Palmer, Esq. From the Palmers it came to Sir Francis Cheyney; his heir sold it to Sir Richard Anderfon, Knight; from whom it has descended to its present possessor.

Here is a small church, and a chancel divided from it.

COLESHILL, OR STOCK PLACE.

THIS place was formerly a good seat belonging to a small manor, called Coleshill, from its situation on a hill of that name, but was originally denominated Old Stock or Stock Place, which in the Saxon signifies habitation: it is a hamlet, partly belonging to Amersham in the county of Bucks, and partly to Beaconsfield in the same county; about two thirds lie in Beaconsfield, and the rest in Amersham parish. It is a member of the county of Hertford, but separated from it by the parish of Amersham: the way which joined this hamlet to Hertfordshire has from lapse of time been totally lost. It is of a quadrangular form, the diameter being rather more than a mile; the situation is healthy, as it stands high and dry; the soil is strong, and not very fertile; some part of it is woodland. The seat formerly belonged to the great family of the Bohuns, Earls of Hereford and Essex, and was part of the revenue of Humphrey de Bohun in Edward I.'s reign. After them the Brudenell family succeeded; and lived here successively about two hundred years since. Thomas Brudenell, in Henry VII.'s reign, conveyed the manor to William Counser: after that it came to the possession of Edmund Waller, Gent. In the reign of Elizabeth it was conveyed to Sir Basil Brook, Knight, of Madeley Court, in the county of Salop: he disposed of it for the sum of 1860*l.* to George Coleshill, of Iving Hoo Aston, in the county of Bucks: he was an attorney at law, and demolished great part of the house, and with the materials built several tenements, then sold what remained of the manor-house and lands to James Perrot of Amersham, who conveyed it to Henry Child of the same place. Within this hamlet

stood

stood an ancient chapel: the foundations of old and very extensive buildings have been here discovered in a field, called Chapelfield. The most considerable of this kind were found in a wood, called Brainford Wood, at the entrance into the hamlet on the side of Amerlham. It was probably a chapel or oratory belonging to the adjacent greater building. Some curious pavements, in the manner of dice-work, and a few coins, have been found among the ruins.

COLLESHILL, or STOCK PLACE.

THIS place was formerly a good town belonging to a small manor, called Colleshill, from its situation on a hill of that name, but was originally denominated Old Stock or Stock Place, which in the Saxon signifies habitation: it is a hamlet, partly belonging to Amerlham in the county of Bucks, and partly to Hertfordshire in the same county; about two thirds lie in Hertfordshire, and the rest in Amerlham parish. It is a member of the county of Hertford, but separated from it by the parish of Amerlham: the way which joined the hamlet to Hertfordshire has been long of time been totally lost. It is of a quadrangular form, the diameter being rather more than a mile; the situation is healthy, as it stands high and dry; the soil is strong, and not very fertile; some part of it is woodland. The last lordship belonged to the great family of the Bohuns, Earls of Hereford and Essex, and was part of the revenue of Humphrey de Bohun in Edward I.'s reign. After them the Brudenell family succeeded, and lived here successively about two hundred years since. Thomas Brudenell, in Henry VII.'s reign, conveyed the manor to William Countess; after that it came to the possession of Edmund Walter Count. In the reign of Elizabeth it was conveyed to Sir Basil Brook, Knight, of Midsley Court, in the county of Salop: he disposed of it for the sum of 1800 to George Colleshill, of King Hoo Allen, in the county of Bucks; he was an attorney at law, and demolished great part of the house, and with the materials built several tenements, then left what remained of the main house and lands to James Poynt of Amerlham, who conveyed it to Henry Child of the same place. Within this parish stood

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